

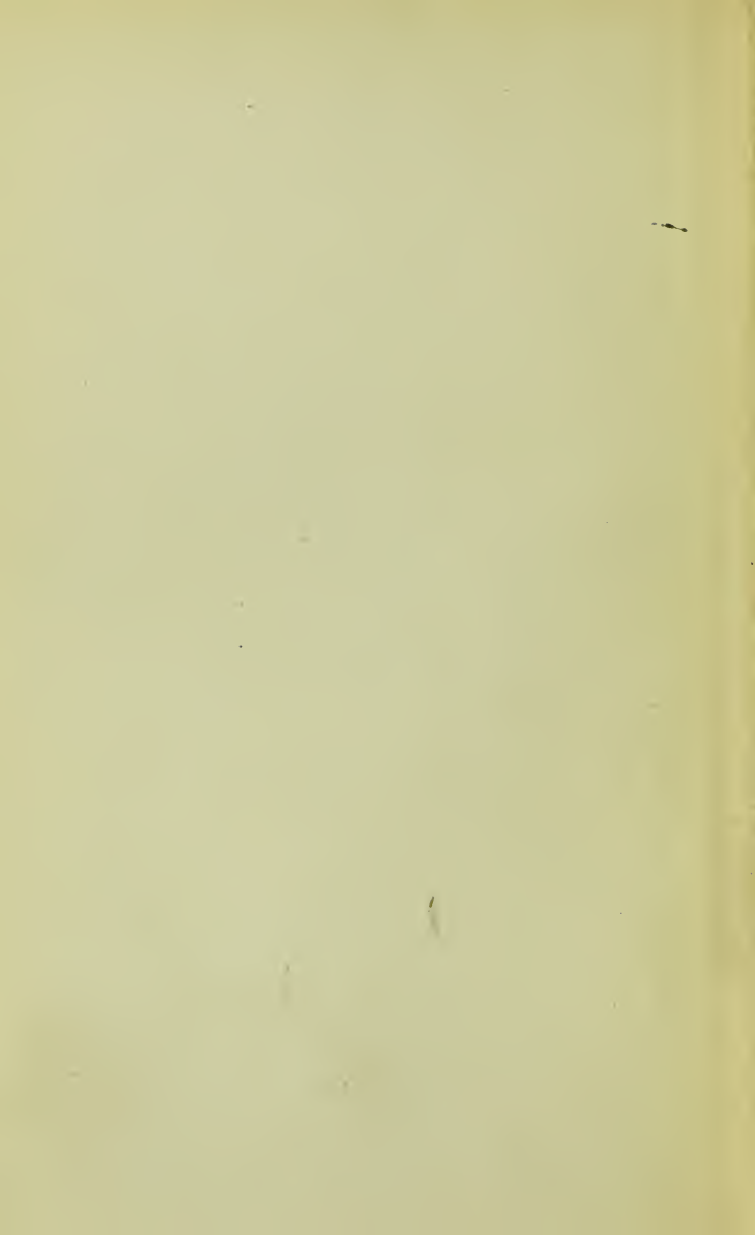
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A WEST INDIAN
SANATORIUM
AND
A GUIDE TO BARBADOS

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AN ACCOUNT

OF A

WEST INDIAN SANATORIUM

AND A

GUIDE TO BARBADOS



BY

THE REV. J. H. SUTTON MOXLY,

CHAPLAIN TO THE FORCES.

LONDON :

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TO

SIR W. ROBINSON, K.C.M.G., &c., &c.

*Governor of Trinidad, and formerly Governor-in-Chief of Barbados and
the Windward Islands,*


AS ONE WHO HAS LONG TAKEN A KINDLY INTEREST IN

BARBADOS AND ITS PEOPLE,

THIS LITTLE VOLUME IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY

THE AUTHOR.



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PREFACE.

I HAVE long considered that the English public suffered no inconsiderable loss from the prevailing misconceptions as to the real nature of the climate of Barbados, and having during a residence here of more than nine years, had ample opportunity of becoming acquainted with the great salubrity of the island and the beneficial effects on invalids of a brief visit to the place, I resolved, for the benefit of others, to put my experience of the effects of the climate before them in the form of a magazine article.

A paper on the subject was accepted a few weeks ago by one of the leading magazines, but in writing it I found that what I wished to say would far exceed the usual

limits of such an article, and I determined to enlarge and publish it as a book.

As I am anxious to have the treatise ready for the opening of the Indian and Colonial Exhibition during the present year in London, the work has been more hurried than I could have wished, and no doubt bears the marks of haste. What I have written, however, I have written out of full knowledge of Barbados, its climate, and its people; and if I have the reward of knowing that many have utilized the information I put before them to their advantage, I shall be content.

J. H. SUTTON MOXLY.

BRIGADE QUARTERS, BARBADOS,

March 8th, 1886.

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A WEST-INDIAN SANATORIUM.

CHAPTER I.

EXPLAINS HOW A NOTORIETY WAS MANUFACTURED FOR BARBADOS.

Knowledge of the Colonies possessed by those "at home"—Repute of the West Indies as insalubrious—Sources of this reputation as far as Barbados is concerned.

IT is probably owing to the vast extent of the colonial empire of England, to the fact that the roll of our reveille drum heralds the rising sun at well-nigh every degree of his march across the nations of the earth, that individual colonies receive so little attention from those living near the centre of the nation's life.

If England possessed but one or two colonies, not only should we be proud of

them, but, no doubt, every school-boy would be able to tell all about them, would be well acquainted with their history, and could repeat by rote their characteristics and their products. But English colonies are so numerous that even those of great importance slip somehow out of sight, their very names almost are "caviare to the general."

That the mother country is proud of her colonies, and of the energy, enterprise, and pluck which have made them, is no doubt perfectly true; while, at the same time, that Englishmen as a rule know but little about them, of their history and capabilities, is scarcely less so.

Most people are aware perhaps that there is a British colony called Barbados, and round the name hang indistinct terrors of awful hurricanes and deadly epidemics. There is a suspicion that the place has been called the "grave of Europeans," and that an enforced residence there was considered almost equivalent to a sentence of death; there are dim ideas perhaps of lofty tamarinds and graceful, slender palms; of negroes labouring in burning canefields, or resting in the shade, while they strum their favourite

banjo, and sing those ditties with which some Christy's minstrels have made us all familiar. Those who are better read in modern history have, it may be, some recollection of deeds of "derring do" connected with the island in the days when Nelson kept watch and ward over its safety, and kept the fleets of the first Napoleon out of its harbours, thereby gaining the lasting gratitude of the colonists and the first monument erected to his honour, now known to the negroes who chatter at its base as "The Green Man in Trafalgar Square;" but there, in general, acquaintance with Barbados and its story ends, and one of our oldest colonies, and the only one of the West India Islands over which the flag of the foreigner never floated, is out of sight scarce more than out of mind.

Of late years, it is true, a greater number of visitors from what every Barbadian lovingly calls "home," and from the United States have come and made stays of more or less brief duration; but the prejudices of former days, and in this case it must be confessed that prejudice was not unjustified, die hard, and it need not therefore cause surprise if the title of this book should in

many cases be read with something of a shock to preconceived ideas, or even if it should be suspected for a moment that the author was perpetrating a wretched joke upon his readers.

For have not the West Indies always borne an evil repute as hot-beds of the worst type of malarial diseases, and has not Barbados earned for itself a bad pre-eminence as above all other places the spot to be avoided, if one would enjoy health or even life ?

Quite true ! But the ravages of disease were not caused, and the consequent evil reputation was not acquired, by any inherent insalubrity in the place, but were owing in the first place to the ignorance of the colonists as to the very fundamentals in sanitary matters, and to the negligence of both civil and military authorities in but slowly adopting and feebly enforcing the most primary sanitary precautions.

Time was, and that not so long ago, before the principles of sanitation were so well understood or their value appreciated as at present, when the troops quartered in the island were huddled together as an intelligent farmer would never crowd his pigs ; when the

"regulation" number of men to a barrack-room was at the rate of one for every eighteen inches along each side-wall, with another row down the middle given equal space—that is, for a room thirty-nine feet long, seventy-eight men who were to live in it night and day; when the married families were allotted dark cells, still to be pointed out, of some five feet every way; when glazed windows or verandahs were unknown in the soldiers' quarters, and when there were not even jalousies, but the openings in the walls were closed by a solid door swinging from a hinge at the top, and known by the men as a "coffin shutter;" when these unfortunates, the soldiers, must risk either suffocation if they kept the shutters down, or "fever and ague," at least in the wet season, if they kept them up, and so got drenched in their beds by the sudden and heavy showers. Yes, time was when a barrack-room in the West Indies was a condemned cell, and the mortality among the troops, consequent upon the absolute defiance in this warm climate of every sanitary law, gave a name of terror to these lovely islands.

Barbados was far from home; the soldier

was not in those days so scarce a commodity as at present ; his market value was not so great ; humanitarian principles were but little heard of ; public opinion on such matters was lethargic ; and so, in fine, pipe-clay, red tape, and—terrible and death-dealing phrase—“ the exigencies of the service ” were allowed rope enough, not indeed to deprive themselves of life—more is the pity—but to drag to an almost certain and repulsive death thousands of brave fellows, war-seasoned soldiers, many of whom escaped from the dangers of “ blood-red fields in Spain,” and from Waterloo itself, only to perish here ingloriously and miserably from easily preventible causes !

The British soldier of sixty, aye of thirty, years ago might well feel astonished were he to hear Barbados vaunted as a sanatorium ! Could he, however, revisit the former scenes, he would soon discover that he and his gallant comrades fell victims to overcrowding, absence of ventilation, bad water, accumulations of filth : in short, to the ignorance or negligence of those in authority in his time, and not,—as he and all the world were led to believe, and as many a memorial tablet in Barbadian churches to this day records,

emulating that other monument which "lifted its tall head and lied,"—"to this fatal climate."

How could Barbados be other than a grave for the European soldier under circumstances such as I have described?

Take a number of human beings; place them in a warm climate; crowd them at night into rooms, shoulder to shoulder, as close as they can stand in their ranks; shut every window about them; give them no water throughout the year to drink but what is caught in tanks from the roof of their barracks, and kept through the long dry season until it becomes absolutely putrid; give them, to be sure, an abundance of fresh rum, fiery and cheap, to which they will rush for refuge from the stale and nauseous liquid called "fresh water;" let every sanitary appliance be suitable to the sleeping accommodation and the drink; let these people rise in the morning sweltering from their beds, and quench their intolerable thirst by draughts of liquid abomination or in strong, fresh rum,—and what will be the state of health of the community?

Will not pestilence in one form or other ravage it? Will not every room, every tank,

become a *nidus* into which no stray atmospheric germ of disease may fall without being forced, as in a hot-bed, into its most vigorous and destructive form of life?

Do we need to go further to find a cause why the place should prove the grave of those compelled to reside in it under such conditions? Do we need, unless indeed we are in search of a scapegoat on which to lay our own misdeeds, to speak of "this fatal climate"? Surely not! For above we have an infallible recipe for the development of the most loathsome and deadly diseases that have ever afflicted humanity!

On such grounds was founded the evil reputation which Barbados long bore, and the odour of which may be said to cling to her still. Let it be the object of the following chapter to show that when obvious and obtrusive sources of disease were removed the diseases themselves also vanished.

CHAPTER II.

HOW BARBADOS BECAME A SANATORIUM.

Establishment of system of sanitation in the Garrison—
Striking results of the same, and of improvements
in the housing of the troops—Barbados becomes
a resort for invalids from the other West India
Islands—The situation and physical conformation
of this island calculated to make it extremely salu-
brious—Schomburgk's opinion of Barbados as a
health-resort—The absence of tropical forest con-
ducive to health.

REMOTE, however, as are the West Indies,
the wave of sanitation reached Barbados at
last. By slow steps, but sure, improvements
were made, new barrack accommodation was
built for the soldiers, a suitable system of
sanitation was adopted in the garrison, and—
greatest boon of all—a copious supply of the
purest water was brought in, by private enter-
prise assisted by a Government subsidy, from
the country to Bridgetown, the capital, and

its neighbourhood, including the garrison and the village of Hastings, when, as if by magic, the condition of the island, with regard to the health of its inhabitants, was altered.

The old order changed, giving place to new, and Barbados, the grave of Europeans, became a sanatorium to which fever-stricken invalids from the other islands began to resort, and for Creoles and Europeans alike, one of the most salubrious spots on the face of the earth.

It is true that a terror, bred by the experience of the past, clings to the name Barbados for most of us English still, and that many a parent's heart is wrung with foreboding fear when the tidings come that the regiment or the ship, in which a son is serving, is under orders for this place.

To dispel in some degree that false impression and allay that groundless fear, to show how utterly devoid of basis in the present state of things such notions are, is part of my design in this little treatise. Not indeed, that I would stop short there, for as I am convinced myself of the wonderful salubrity of the island and of its peculiar fitness, especially during the winter months

and those of spring and early summer, as a place of resort for invalids suffering from pulmonary or throat affections, or from general debility; so I hope to convince others that the English men and women who crowd during the winter every town on the Riviera and flock in numbers to Madeira and Algiers, would do better, if the pursuit of health is their object, in visiting this coral island in the blue Caribbean, and luxuriating in a climate unequalled in the world for its equable temperature, its genial warmth, without excessive heat, its steady breezes that have swept across 4000 miles of ocean, bearing life and vigour on their wings. I may, perhaps, reasonably expect that so strong a statement as to the salubrity of the island will be received at first with something of incredulity; but a little consideration will show that when once we have eliminated such fruitful sources of disease in a tropical climate as overcrowding, absence of ventilation, and of any system of sanitation, and a tainted and insufficient water supply, there is nothing remarkable in the fact that a small coral island, with the rock immediately underlying the soil so porous that water drips

through several inches thick of it in a few minutes, and that parts of it on being thrown into water will at first float and only sink when saturated, lying terrace above terrace from the sea, and swept by the constant trade-wind, which, blowing from the north-east, causes a rapid evaporation, and consequently a sensation of comparative coolness; an island, too, whose limited area prevents any marked variation in temperature, should be distinguished for its healthiness, or that a residence upon it should nearly approach the conditions of a yachting cruise through summer seas.

Indeed, to those who live near the sea-shore, especially on the "windward side" of the island, the roar of the breakers on the coral reef, coupled with the freshness of the breeze, renders it easy to imagine that they are standing in the bows of a sea-going ship. To show that I am not the only one or the first to have been struck by the adaptability of this climate to the wants of invalids, I may quote the following passage from Sir Robert Schomburgk's *History of Barbados*.

"It is much to be wondered at that European physicians, who are acquainted

with the even temperature and absence of chilly blasts, do not recommend Barbados as a sojourn for invalids labouring under pulmonary diseases. The splendid steam-packets which now touch at Barbados from Southampton, render an expeditious intercourse with England quite certain. The mode of living is, perhaps, cheaper in Barbados than in any other island in the West Indies, and the dwellings combine so many English comforts, as far as they could be adopted in a tropical country, that if it were not for the palm trees which surround them, and the balmy air in January and February, when we know that nature 'at home' lies in the icy grasp of winter, we should be inclined to ask ourselves, 'Are we in England or in a foreign clime?' The advantages of sea-bathing, for which many arrangement are made at Fontabelle, Hastings, and Worthing are an additional recommendation. The roads for carriage drives, or, where the strength of the patient permits it, for horse exercise, are excellent; but the greatest advantage to be derived from a residence in Barbados is the even dry temperature, different from the climate of Madeira and the Azores, which is moist and

exceedingly variable in its temperature." Whatever reasons existed for the withholding of such recommendation by physicians when the above passage was written (1848) have now been wholly removed, while as to the amount and quality of the accommodation provided for visitors, there has been, as will appear later on, vast improvement.

To the absence, too, of dense tropical forest may, in some degree, be attributed the salubrity of the place.

When Barbados was first discovered, and when it was colonized by the English, the island was heavily wooded; indeed, it is said to owe its name to the appearance of its *bearded* trees, but the slender sugar-cane has laid low the gigantic silk-cotton tree, the tamarind, and the "evergreen," and the primeval forest has vanished, save from one small spot (Turner's Hall Wood) of a few acres in extent, where the crash of falling palm-fronds and the chattering of monkeys may still be heard, and some idea may be formed as to the face the island wore for those first Englishmen who settled on it.

CHAPTER III.

GIVES PROOF OF THE GREAT SALUBRITY
OF BARBADOS.

Argument from density of population—Prosperity of Barbados “Mutual Life Assurance Society”—The medical records of European troops in the garrison—Great chemical purity of the air—Use of antiseptics not necessary in the General Hospital, Barbados—Absence or extreme mildness of cases of scarlet fever, small-pox, diphtheria, &c., &c.—Freedom of white population from pulmonary diseases—Causes of death in Barbados—Proposed new water supply for country places—Yellow fever; improbability of an epidemic of—Its course easily avoided.

I NOW proceed to establish the truth of the assertions I have made, namely, that Barbados is one of the most salubrious places in the world, and that its climate is especially adapted to make it an agreeable and advantageous winter residence for those who are driven by acute illness or debility to spend that season out of England.

I shall not lay any stress upon my personal experience during a residence of several years in this place, but shall support my argument by facts which are indisputable, easily examined, and which it is scarcely possible to misread. I shall not do more either than allude, in passing, to the health enjoyed by the native population, white, coloured, and black, for it might be reasonably objected that the vital statistics of the natives, no matter how favourable they appeared, could offer no guarantee as to the safety and welfare of unacclimatized English people ; and for the same reason I shall abstain from urging the number of cases of extreme longevity that are met with here, contenting myself with suggesting that Barbados could scarcely be, as it most undoubtedly is, the most densely populated country in the world, having a population of about 180,000 to an acreage of under 110,000, if it were "the grave" it so often in England is supposed to be, and that a very practical proof of the general healthiness of the island might be drawn from the statistics of one of the most flourishing institutions in the colony, namely, "The Barbados Mutual Life Assurance Society,"

which, carrying on its business on a liberal basis, has gained an almost unparalleled success, and year by year returns large sums by way of bonus to its members.

I prefer at once to take the most crucial test that can be had, and shall rest my main proof upon the health of young unacclimatized men, many of them, indeed, but "weedy boys," at the worst age for such an experiment, who arrive in Barbados for the most part direct from England, the soldiers of the European troops in the garrison !

Now these young fellows are not only peculiarly liable to be attacked by epidemic or other disease, if any be prevalent, on account of their youth and frequently feeble *physique*, but more than that, they are as a class woefully imprudent, doing generally as they would on a summer's day at home ; often to be found, for instance, lying on the steaming earth after heavy tropical rain, and many of them abusing their new-born liberty of manhood by indulging in those excesses which the laxity of morals among the coloured population, and the cheapness of rum open the door to, to a degree unknown in England, and thus forming the very worst cases, one

would imagine, on which to attempt the support of the statements I have made.

But what do we find? I am here, it will be remembered, stating a fact which it will not be difficult to disprove if I am wrong; but I unhesitatingly assert it, that the records of the garrison at Barbados for, say the last twenty years, show that it is the healthiest station at which British troops are quartered.

In fact, it is scarcely too much to say that were it not for indulgence in such vices as I have above alluded to, there would be no sickness among the soldiers here, and the military hospital might almost be closed. Moreover, it is not only the absence of serious illness among the European troops, but perhaps in quite as great a degree, the remarkable improvement in *physique* made by the young soldiers during their three years' stay in the island, that deserves attention. It is, of course, to be expected that recruits of seventeen and eighteen years of age, subjected to military training and drill, and plainly but well and wholesomely fed, will gain in muscular development and chest measurement during the first years of their service; but nowhere will this improvement be more marked

than, or the exceptions to the general rule be so few as in Barbados. Many a youth whom, had he remained at his civilian employment at home, phthisis or some other form of pulmonary disease would have claimed for its own, owes his survival of that critical period of life, from eighteen years to twenty-one, and a fair start down the twenties in robust health, to the happy accident of his regiment's having served in this most unjustly maligned climate.

It would be impossible, I believe, to produce a stronger argument in favour of the salubrity of Barbados than a comparison of the medical records of the garrison with those of any other station would afford.

Again, the purity of the air in Barbados, as shown by a most careful and skilful analysis by the Government professor of chemistry, is very great; but that, one may perhaps say, is nothing extraordinary in a small island built up and situated as this is! And certainly it is not more than might reasonably be expected, but then I would try to point out that with such remarkable purity of air it should not be a matter for surprise, but of reasonable expectation also, that there should be a

corresponding freedom from disease. It is unhealthiness that should be surprising in such a spot, and there is little doubt that in years to come people will wonder that disease could have ever lurked under such a genial sky or found a nook in which to hide from such a cleansing breeze as that which fans this "Windward Island."

With reference to this question of the chemical purity of the air in this place, I give an incontestable fact, one well worth the proverbial cart-load of argument, and more valid for my purpose than any chemist's certificate.

It is well known that in English and other hospitals the danger that important surgical operations might be followed by hospital gangrene was at one time considerable, and few are ignorant as to how much those who suffer under the operating knife are indebted to Lister's famous "Antiseptic treatment" for safety from the same. Now it is surely remarkable that in this so-called fatal climate so great is the purity of the air, and so complete is the absence of provocative germs that hospital gangrene is unknown, and that the most serious operations in surgery are

performed in the General Hospital at Bridgetown without the use of any antiseptics whatever! There is not the slightest necessity for their use, and so, however valuable this "treatment" may be amid the germ-laden air of English hospitals, Lister's great discovery is not appreciated here, as it doubtless would be did not the climate prove its own antiseptic.

Again, scarlet fever, though not absolutely unknown in the island, is of extremely rare occurrence, and of so mild a type when a case does exist that it may be safely said no death ever takes place owing to that, in England, so destructive disease.

It must seem strange to an English mother to hear of any parents wishing that scarlet fever should break out among the children of the family! But in the Barbadian home that dread disease has lost its terrors, and to a family about to proceed to England no more fortunate thing can happen than that the children should suffer—if indeed that word can be rightly used where there is no suffering from it, as then there is every reason to believe they will be "protected" from a recurrence of the disease while they remain

“at home,” and that of course is a matter of congratulation.

The same thing may be said of measles and of small-pox, that is, they rarely occur and are not dangerous when they do exist.

The latter disease (small-pox) is almost unknown, and that although there is no law enforcing compulsory vaccination, and as a matter of fact but a very small proportion indeed of the inhabitants have been vaccinated, or perhaps have ever heard of vaccination. When it is remembered how fatal this disease has been, when introduced by whites among coloured races generally, the immunity from it enjoyed by the Barbadian negro population must seem somewhat anomalous, and would be hard to reconcile with the imputation of insalubrity to the place. As for “measles,” this ailment is *comparatively* frequent, but no one takes any notice of it. The children affected remain from school for a few days, and that is all. There are no complications, and no chronic weakness of throat, ear, or eye remains to hang on the constitution of the patient like a burr, as so often is the case in

England, and for that matter in most other places.

Pulmonary diseases may be also said to be non-existent, at least among the whites, though it is not unusual for the poorer and most neglected class of blacks to afford victims to lung affections, and especially to phthisis.

This liability of some among the negro population to pulmonary complaints would be surprising if the utter neglect with which so many of the children are treated were left out of account, but when this neglect, of which more will be said in the proper place, is taken into consideration, it will be seen that the insufficiency of food that, in a colder climate and one making greater demands on the vital powers, would entail a speedy death, here only gradually saps the strength, and by enfeebling the vitality of the children renders them in later life an easy prey to tubercular disease.

The almost perfect immunity from small-pox, scarlet fever, diphtheria, &c., that the colonists enjoy, and the extremely mild type of these maladies in such cases as do occur, is no doubt, at least in part, owing to the

constant and thorough ventilation that the warmth of the climate permits and encourages. For Barbadians may, in a certain sense, be said to live in the open air. Most, even of the best houses, have glazed windows only on the windward side, and those windows that are glazed are allowed, except during rain, to remain continually open.

The reader may be tempted jocularly to ask here if any one ever dies in Barbados? And if so, and there is no phthisis, no bronchitis, no scarlet fever, and no small-pox, what do people die of? A Barbadian would most likely answer "of the doctors!"

But the disease that is answerable for the greatest number of preventible deaths is typhoid fever. And this again is what, when the circumstances of the island are taken into consideration, might be looked for. The country is densely populated, and the porous nature of the soil, in this case, probably increases the danger.

There is no system of drainage in Barbados outside the garrison.

Bridgetown itself is undrained, old fashioned cess-pits serving or being supposed to serve

to convey the sewage, by infiltration, to the sea ; and there can be no doubt that the sewage is eventually thus washed into the sea ; and consequently in Bridgetown, where scavenging is thoroughly done, while the water supply is brought in from an unpolluted source, the risk from typhoid is not so great as in a country town at home—but in the country districts the case is different. There the whole water supply of the poorer folk is derived from wells, and, for a short time after heavy rain has fallen, from surface streams. In the long dry season the people suffer much from the want of water, and are driven to drink from ponds, whose condition is often loathsome ; but the danger is increased rather than diminished when, on the commencement of the wet season, the thirsty soil drinks in the heavy rains, which thus wash into the wells the filth accumulations of the preceding months.

Indeed the wonder is that fatal cases of typhoid are not more numerous than they are, and that typhus does not appear in addition ; but the truth would seem to be that the natural salubrity of the place endures, without serious results, evils that in another

country would entail lamentable consequences.

Undoubtedly a general system of water supply for the whole island would be most advantageous, but when one thinks of the enormous cost of such a system, it is not surprising that the legislature of Barbados has, until quite recently, hesitated about attempting to construct it. The healthiness of the island in spite of any disadvantage tended to make the inhabitants supine in the matter, and they have hitherto been apt to comfort themselves by saying, that they were no worse off in these things than country districts in England itself, and far more healthy, while hinting at the applicability of a certain proverb about a mote and a beam, and pointing out that wealthy and populous districts near London, and not far from the Thames, are in a much worse position as regards sanitation than the remotest spot in Barbados. Active measures, however, are now being taken in this matter, and it is hoped that within a very brief period an abundant supply of pure water will be brought within reach of every household.

In the next place, the admitted scourge of Barbados is, or rather perhaps was, yellow fever. Of the origin of this disease, of its cause and mode of propagation, as well as of proper remedial treatment, nothing is known. This much, however, seems clear, that its greatest foes are cleanliness, good air, and good water, and, as these matters have received greater attention, so the ravages of the disease have become less frequent and less destructive.

There is probably no year in which cases of yellow fever are not introduced into Barbados from other West India islands, or from the mainland of America, but for twenty years before 1881 the disease had failed to spread, and since 1881, though several seamen labouring under that malady have been landed here, there has been no epidemic.

The disease remains, as it has been since it was first known, a mystery, and offers still a field for skilful and bold inquiry. But it would be a mistake to suppose that the chance of epidemic yellow fever making its appearance again in the island should prevent invalids from visiting it as a health resort, for in the first place such chance is extremely

problematical, *especially during the cool season*; and in the second, an epidemic of yellow fever never breaks out without having given a lengthened warning by the occurrence of sporadic cases, when, if the visitor should fear a spread of the disease, he would have ample time to leave the island.

Indeed, even had an epidemic broken out, as some five steamers a month leave for England, and as there is no quarantine against the fever at home, it is always easy to leave its path. The danger, however, may be said to be imaginary, and is only mentioned at all, because the writer is anxious to avoid any imputation of painting the picture he draws of this place in fallaciously brilliant colours, and of leaving out the necessary shadow, without which there would be an air of unreality about the whole.

CHAPTER IV.

THE CLIMATE OF BARBADOS: REMARKS
ON THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE
MEDICAL PROFESSION.

The seasons but two—Range of temperature—Effects of the trade-wind on the temperature and on sensation—Effect of great equability of temperature on invalids suffering from phthisis, &c.—Absence of cases of sunstroke—Invalids cautioned against violent exercise in the sun—Barbados as a *permanent* residence for aged people—Low death-rate for children of Europeans—Empiricism receives a toleration from the public whose confidence in the salubrity of their climate renders them careless—“Bogus Degrees”—Recent legislation making some medical study compulsory before the candidate is licensed to ‘practice’—Curious medical advertisements—Many gentlemen of unimpeachable qualifications practising—Some Barbados medicals register their “gift.”

THE seasons in Barbados are but two, the wet and the dry, or the hot and the cool, or yet again the spring and the “crop-time.”

The wet season lasts say from the beginning of June to about the end of October, the dry extending over the remaining months; but it must be said that no very definite time can be set down for the commencement of the rains, and sometimes the "wet season" does not begin till late in July, or even till August.

When this happens the rainy weather may be expected to continue till late in November, and heavy rain during several hours of the day is not unknown in December, though of very rare occurrence. The phrases "wet season" and "dry season" must be taken also with some reservation, and it must not be at all understood that every day in the wet season is wet, for that is not the case, the fact being that in Barbados there are not more than five or six really wet days, that is, days on which rain falls for consecutive hours, during the year.

While the wet season lasts, there are frequent and heavy showers with occasional thunderstorms, and now and then, at long intervals, days on which rain comes down heavily for some hours.

When it rains it pours, but there are very

few days indeed, even during the wet season, when one is cut off from his ride or drive; and in the same way, during the "dry season" there are frequently refreshing showers, but not sufficient rainfall to prevent the grass, particularly near the sea-coast and in low-lying districts, from being burned brown or red by the combined action of the sun and wind.

During the dry season, and especially throughout the latter half of November, through December, January, February, March, and April, the north-east trade-wind blows steadily, and the climate is delightful. The heat from the direct rays of the sun, as might be expected in a place so near the equator, is much the same all round the year, the difference of temperature and the much more marked difference of sensation being mainly caused by the direction and force of the wind.

The temperature in the neighbourhood of Bridgetown and Hastings ranges, during the months from November to June, from 82° Fahrenheit in the shade at mid-day, or 83° on a warm day, that is one on which the wind falls a little, to 80° or perhaps even 79° at

mid-day on a "cold day," while at night the thermometer shows 76° or even, in "cold" weather and in the open air, falls so low as 73° . In the country at a height of from 700 feet to 1000 feet above the sea level, and at places on the windward side, as "The Crane" and Bathsheba, it is always some degrees lower than at Bridgetown, and the temperature may fall to 68° or even to 67° on a "very cold night!"

This equability of temperature, night and day throughout the long dry season, renders the climate very favourable for those suffering from pulmonary affections, and is no doubt in a great degree the cause of the almost perfect immunity Barbados enjoys from phthisis and other diseases of the respiratory organs.

Europeans in judging from their experience of warm weather at home, are liable to fall into a serious mistake in supposing that a temperature of 80° is too warm for comfort in Barbados!

No doubt it would be in still air, but the constant stream of fresh air off the sea makes all the difference.

I well remember how, on going into a hot-

house during my first visit to England after a residence of some years in Barbados, I was overpowered by the close, sultry heat of the place; and on the owner remarking, "This reminds you of the West Indies?" I replied at once, "Oh, no! We but seldom have it above 85° or 86° , even in the hot season, and here the temperature must be 100° ," when my friend smilingly pointed me to the thermometer on the wall, which I found registered exactly 80° ! I was fairly astonished, but I should have remembered that there was no Trade-Wind in the hot-house!

While on the subject of temperature another fact seems to deserve notice—the remarkable absence of cases of sun-stroke here. A death through sun-stroke is, so far as I know, absolutely unknown in the island, and this, although the heat *in the sun*, especially during the hot season, is great. Raw European soldiers may be seen practising or playing cricket during the hottest hours of the hottest days, very often with no covering for the head but an ordinary cricket cap, and not seldom without even that protection, and yet the men escape injury, else the military authorities, who are careful

in such matters, would take measures to prohibit needless exposure. Stranger still, even the soldiers' children enjoy their outdoor games in the direct rays of the mid-day sun, apparently without any sense of danger, although often bare-headed. The mere fact that cricket is so popular a game in Barbados, and that the gentlemen of the island are such adepts at it as to be more than a match for the best garrison teams, and even to prove themselves superior to a combined eleven of the garrison and the North American and West Indian fleets, might be taken as a proof that the warmth of the climate does not prohibit, or even act prejudicially upon, the pursuit of athletic games and pastimes. That exposure to the rays of a tropical sun at the hottest time of the day should have so little injurious effect seems strange, and might appear unaccountable were it not that the great quantity of vapour, drawn from the circumambient sea, that the warm air is able to support may perhaps afford the explanation. I am not, however, to be understood as recommending those who have but recently arrived in the island from Europe, to expose themselves carelessly or to take violent

exercise in the sun during the hotter hours of the day; on the contrary, experience teaches that violent exercise should by such persons be taken before 9 a.m., or after 4 p.m., and the observation of such a rule would prove especially beneficial to invalids.

Those who have been in any degree acclimatized may be allowed to judge for themselves in such a matter, and the writer has spent whole days in the saddle during the hottest season without the slightest ill effects.

I have hitherto written of Barbados as a winter resort for invalids, or those with a tendency to pulmonary disease. For these there can be no doubt but that a visit to this place is most advantageous; consumptive patients in such weak health as to require to be carried on board the mail steamer in Southampton, have been known during a few weeks' residence here to have gained strength so rapidly that they have been able to attend a ball and enjoy their full share of the dancing. But there is another class of invalids, or rather of those in whom, although there may be no organic disease, the pulses of life are beating feebly, for whom a *perma-*

ment residence in Barbados is remarkably beneficial.

I mean aged people. The change produced in feeble aged folk by living in this place is striking. They seem to take out a new lease of life, and enter upon an Indian summer of existence. The climate makes little or no demand upon their strength; it costs scarce any expense of vital power to keep up animal heat; there is no risk of congestion of the lungs, of pleurisy, or of bronchitis, and similar diseases, and the forces that become exhausted in such a climate as that of an English winter, in resisting an attack, say of bronchial catarrh, expend themselves here in prolonging a peaceful and pleasurable existence, till, as when a clock has "run down" and the pendulum, without a struggle, ceases to tick, life comes to a stop. Personally, I know of no cases in which the climate of Barbados has proved more beneficial than in those of elderly people who, suffering from no specific disease, but merely from that debility and general decrease of vital power which accompanies old age, have in a marked degree recovered strength with mental and physical elasticity. In support of

this deduction from my own experience, I may quote the following passage from Sir R. Schomburgk's "History of Barbados":—
"It appears the climate of Barbados is particularly congenial to the life of the female sex after they have reached their sixtieth year. Few countries in the world can show such high numbers where the deceased had reached an age above sixty."

From the mention already made of the absence of infantile diseases, it will appear reasonable that the lives of children should be also peculiarly safe in this island.

The fact is, that the death of a child of a member of the upper classes, or of a European soldier, is of very rare occurrence; and whereas in India, the pure-blooded children of English parents are necessarily removed from the pernicious influences of that climate at an early age, here they enjoy excellent health, and partake with their seniors of the benefits of this genial clime. But the fact which in this connection arouses most surprise, especially when the gross neglect with which in too many cases the children of the poorer class are treated by their parents is considered, is that rickets,

curvature of the spine, and similar diseases, which one might naturally suppose would be frequently met with among people whose dietary was on so low a scale, are unknown or occur so seldom that a case will not be met with for years ; while, on the other hand, children suffering from such causes who are brought to the island, as a rule, make marvellous recoveries.

Indeed, it is difficult to speak truthfully of the remedial effects of this climate in cases of phthisis, tonsilitis, and other throat affections, debility, and what may be termed in a word the diseases of children, and at the same time preserve an appearance of judicial impartiality.

The Englishman abroad, it is said, never cares to be sundered far from his umbrella ; he is quite as unwilling to place himself beyond the reach of sound medical advice, and therefore a few words as to the position and attainments of the medical profession in Barbados will not be out of place in this chapter. Possibly it is owing to their confidence in the salubrity of their island that Barbadians are more tolerant of empiricism and bare-faced quackery than people of

English blood in any other part of the world. I am, of course, far from wishing to include the whole medical profession of Barbados in one sweeping condemnation. There are many duly qualified practitioners, and some who, in addition to exceptionally good degrees and the imprimatur of distinguished universities, have gained a solid reputation for skill in the art of healing; but there are many mere charlatans, men who having spent their youth behind the counter of a general store, or in similar employment, have gone to America for a few months, and returning with "bogus" degrees, or those of some unknown "college," "set up" as physicians and surgeons, and trade chiefly upon the simplicity of the lower classes and negroes. So influential at one time was this type of medical man here, that until quite recently they were able to offer a successful resistance to attempts at legislative interference with the validity of their "license to kill;" but this success must be in part attributed to the supineness of those in authority, and to the carelessness of the public, who probably consider their climate as an antidote to physic. Up to the present

time it has been no objection whatever, in the way of an appointment to a well-paid post as a medical officer under the Government, that the person appointed was without any properly called medical qualification, and would be liable to a criminal prosecution were he to practise in England, and a patient of his should happen to die. Among other salutary legislative action taken during the administration of the late Governor, Sir William Robinson, however, an act has been passed under which a three years' course of medical study is necessary before one can be legally let loose upon society; but the terms of the act are somewhat lax and indecisive as to what constitutes a course of the study of medicine, and all who were engaged in "the art of healing"? before the passing of the bill are still permitted, from regard to their "vested interests," to attend those who call them in. But the act is at least a step in the right direction, and limited as are the powers under it, it may be trusted, if stringently administered, in time to cause the disappearance of such sign-boards as might have recently been seen painted, "Dr. So-and-So, of France," and of such advertisements from the local

newspapers as "Dr.——, of Guadaloupe, begs to announce to his numerous patients that he has taken a room in the commodious house of Mr. ——, in —— Street. Poor patients treated and medicine supplied at one shilling each;" and it will probably put an end also to the scandal of men drawing salary as public officials in one part of the empire who would be liable to a criminal prosecution if they ventured to exercise the functions of their office in another part.

To an Englishman it will seem very ridiculous, but this is the sort of letter he will probably soon receive if he is supposed to take any interest in this place: "Mr. —— is desirous of going to America to obtain a diploma as a doctor, and will feel much obliged if Mr. —— will kindly aid him by a subscription, however small in amount, towards this laudable object."

Should the aspirant for medical honours succeed in raising as much as will support him in the "States" for a few months, he will return with a huge parchment, mounted in a gilt frame and duly glazed, setting forth that the owner has obtained the diploma and degree of —— University—the "Univer-

sity " will probably never have been heard of before—and at once begin to practise upon the lives of her Majesty's lieges ; and until this recent Act was passed, there was nothing to hinder his gaining the summit of his ambition, a snug Government appointment. All this, however, need not frighten an intending visitor, for it will be his own fault if he do not call in the services of a medical man of unimpeachable qualifications—that is if he should need them, but the probability is that he will find the climate of Barbados his best physician. I have only to mention the names of Dr. Archer (who may be called consulting physician to the garrison), and Drs. Brown and Bourne, practising in Bridgetown and neighbourhood, and Drs. Walcott, Sealy, Manning, and Gaskin, in the country districts, to show that there is no lack of skilled medical advice. There are, of course, other good men outside the circle of my personal acquaintance, and some rising young physicians who will no doubt obtain, as time goes on, the practice of those who, being unqualified, are at present, owing to the above-mentioned tenderness towards "vested interests," permitted to administer advice. It

is not, after all, to be wondered at, if amidst a population among whom belief in the powers of "Obeah" still struggles to exist, many practitioners should have claimed to be registered under the recent Act, who had not even gone to the trouble of procuring "bogus" degrees, and based such claim, like Mr. Punch's would-be hospital matron, not on any previous training but on their "gift."

By the way, that, among the practical much-trained Germans, the word "gift" means poison, seems in this connection a curious coincidence.

One wonders why it has never struck the Powers that be that the appointment at tropical stations, as Trinidad, Demerara, and Jamaica, of local medical men of undoubted qualifications and good standing as consulting physicians to the garrisons would be highly advantageous to the military. At Barbados, where the climate might be said to defy the doctors, it is not of so much consequence; but even here many mistakes and much suffering would be avoided if a man experienced in treating local ailments could be called in by the Army Medical Staff. There

would be less risk than of a "manchinele" blister puzzling the faculty, or of other regrettable incidents of which I could tell if I would. Without wishing to cast the slightest imputation upon the skill of the army "doctors," one may ask, how can young fellows fresh from college, where little attention or *none* is paid to the diseases peculiar to tropical climates, be expected to treat by the proper methods, complaints of which they are almost necessarily totally ignorant? I have seen enough to know that if the young surgeons of the Army Medical Staff sent out here could have a short training at the Local Civilian Hospital under the instruction of a medical man about whose standing there could be no dispute, or if the advice of such a man could be called in at any time, or, better still, if both expedients could be adopted, the sick soldier would be greatly benefited. The importance of the subject must excuse what under other circumstances might be considered the impertinent suggestion of an outsider.

CHAPTER V.

AMUSEMENTS.

No idlers in Barbados—The afternoon on the Savannah—Bands, polo, “gymkhanas,” &c., &c.—Festivities on the arrival of the North American and West Indian Fleet—Shooting—“Maroons”—Shark-fishing—Shoal-water fishing by moonlight—Remarkable effects of the moonlight on the landscape as seen from the sea.

WITH reference to the amusements and relaxations of residents in Barbados it must be premised that of the gentry of no country in the world can it be said with less truth than of those in this island that they neither toil nor spin.

There is not an unoccupied gentleman in the place, and scarcely one who can be said to be but lightly worked. It is not therefore surprising if, as amusements like other things are a matter of demand and supply, the leisured stranger should find the colony dull in comparison with summer watering-places

at home, or winter resorts on the continent. An influx of visitors, a great part of whose efforts should be directed towards the combination of saving their own lives and the killing of time, would no doubt be quickly followed by an influx of those whose business it would be to cater for the amusement of the former. "Without the English San Remo would die," was the confession of an Italian, recorded in the pages of *Macmillan's Magazine* many years ago.¹

With Barbados, on the other hand, there is no question of life or death (except, indeed, to the visitor), whether Englishmen come or stay, but with the arrival of many English men and women the social life of the island would become more *lively* than at present, although even now, for any one bringing a letter of introduction to an officer of the garrison or to one of the island gentry, the time can be made to pass pleasantly enough, and "nice" people get found out very quickly even without that formality, and are soon, so to say, given the freedom of hospitable Barbados.

To the traveller who has just landed from

¹ "San Remo Revisited."—*Macmillan*, March, 1865.

the Mail steamer, say about the end of October, having left behind him but ten or eleven days before, the almost leafless trees and generally sobered tints of the English late autumn landscape, it will seem strange to see the vivid green in which the whole island is clothed.

Should he drive in the afternoon to the Garrison, situated about a mile from Bridgetown, he will find the games in full swing which had been laid aside for weeks before he left England, and entering upon a new summer, he will see in one corner of the great green parade-ground a cricket-match being fought out between the rival companies of a regiment or between a garrison and a civilian club ; at another part he may find the officers "at home" to their friends, and an excellent military band discoursing sweet music, while several lawns are occupied by the devotees of "tennis."

Here, perhaps, some mounted officers are tilting at the ring or the tent-peg, or making the scene more gay with their variegated jackets while they pursue the flying ball at polo. The parade-ground, called the Savannah, is a level field of some forty acres in

extent, almost circular, and surrounded by a belt of trees, among which the beautiful glossy "evergreen" (*Ficus nitida*) predominates. All round, underneath the trees, runs a carriage road, while outside again are the garrison buildings, barracks, offices, officers' quarters, racquet-courts, &c., standing in detached blocks. To the south lies the sea, while on the north-east the background is formed by the green hill of High-Gate. This field is not only the parade-ground of the troops, but the playground of the garrison, and for that matter of the island as well. It is here that by permission of the general officer commanding the Barbados races are held; a portion of the ground is occasionally borrowed for their sports by a local athletic club, and here the garrison athletic meetings, pony races, and frequent "gymkhanas" come off.

It goes without saying that these various sports are open to all spectators, the immediate friends of the officers and of non-commissioned officers being accommodated in separate enclosures and hospitality dispensed under the shade of marquees and tents. One of these garrison meetings forms a sight well

worth seeing by the visitor ! What with the fluttering pennons, the gaily-coloured dresses of the black people, the picturesque uniform of the Zouave soldiers of the West India regiments, the red or white of the European infantry, and the parti-coloured jackets of the jockeys ; then the spirit of rollicking fun shining in the ebony faces of the negroes, and bursting into loud shouts of laughter at the slightest incident that seems comical, while above the hum or cheers of the crowd swell the strains of the band, the whole picture framed in by that belt of wonderful green ; surely, if it is hard to describe the scene, it is still harder to forget it !

The introduction of lawn-tennis has proved a great boon to the residents here, and chiefly perhaps to the ladies, who, before the advent of the game, were without any form of exercise, save that which could be obtained in the ball-room ; and this, while it could not be had every day, or rather every night, is not calculated to produce the bloom of perfect health. Riding has never been a favourite exercise—the hardness of the roads, for the most part cut out of the coral rock,

prohibiting, unless one is careless about his horse's hoofs, a healthy, rapid trot so that it is little wonder if the complexion of the ladies, who were confined to the house for a great part of the year, during the hottest hours of the day, and with little or no exhilarating exercise, rapidly assumed that fading lily tint, so different from the bloom they brought with them on their return from school in England! Lawn-tennis has changed all that, and, indeed, has effected quite a revolution in the afternoon habits of young Barbados.

The game seems to have taken a permanent hold of the people. Courts have been laid down in all directions, and in addition to the re-unions on the garrison grounds, and on those of the principal island club at Enmore, the lawns at Government House (the residence of the Governor and representative of the Queen), and Queen's House (the quarters of the general officer commanding in the West Indies), with those of some of the leading gentry of the place, are thrown open for weekly receptions, so that frequent opportunities are given for the meeting of people, young and old, of which I must say full advantage seems to be taken.

On the whole, between lawn-tennis and dances, riding-parties and pic-nics on moon-light nights, the time does not seem to hang heavy on the hands of the young folks. Besides, there is the arrival of the North American and West Indian fleet, which is eagerly looked forward to, and is the signal for the outburst of every description of Barbadian gaiety. While the admiral remains, a period of from ten days to a fortnight, generally during the months of January or February, a succession of balls, dinners, pic-nics, gymkhanas, regattas, and sham-fights takes place, with many entertainments on board the different vessels of the fleet. At this season, also, the war-ships of foreign nations frequently visit the island, so that it is not unusual to see the harbour crowded with ships flying the flags of many countries, English, American, French, German, Swedish, and others, while the roads and streets of Bridgetown and its neighbourhood swarm with sailors, and resound with the unfamiliar accents of many different languages.

As almost every inch of the country is tilled, it is needless to say there is no hunting to be had, nor is there any shooting worth the name

either, although for a month or so in the wet season some species of plover and snipe rest here for a few days, on their migratory passage from America towards some unknown land. While the "birds" stay, every one in Barbados who has a gun brings it out and there is quite an excitement about the "shooting!" Parties are made up to go out to Chancery Lane for the day, which is spent for the most part in a hut, erected for the purpose by the proprietor of the land, every one rushing out, gun in hand, when it is known that an unfortunate "bird" has appeared, and blazing away in a most cheerful manner. It is remarked that part of the ammunition provided on such occasions invariably consists of some packs of cards and five-dollar notes, the former of course being quite legitimate, seeing that they can be called, without much impropriety, "*card-tridges*." To leave out all mention of whist when speaking of the amusements and relaxations, at least of middle-aged and elderly Barbados, would be to leave the prince out of the play, not that there is any gambling, properly so called, here. No! A quiet rubber at shilling points is, as a rule, the

limit of dissipation in this direction, but from constant practice the gentlemen of the island acquire great skill at the game, and it is not easy for a stranger to make his fortune at the whist-tables of the Bridgetown Club. There are no streams for fresh-water fish to live in, and therefore there is no fishing with rod and line either, though there is plenty of excitement to be had by those with a tolerable pair of "sea-legs" on, in catching sharks, which abound, especially in December and January, off the coasts of the island. On the windward side, sharks of considerable size are often taken by fishing from the rocks; but for those who are not afraid of the sea, and are willing to "rough it" for a day or two, by far the best plan is for from two to five men to club together and hire a small schooner, with sufficient hands to work the vessel. They can then anchor on one of the recognized shark grounds off the coast, or, if they prefer, make sail for St. Vincent and St. Lucia, places they can reach in from ten to fourteen hours with a favourable wind.

In this way a good deal can be seen of the West India islands, and at a very moderate

cost, while the probability is that more than the money's worth will be had of excitement. The shark seems to be esteemed, *par excellence*, the enemy of the human race, and by the fishermen of the West Indies and the sailors who work the little "island schooners," the whole tribe is bitterly hated.

The negro, too, is a very excitable fellow, so that it is often found difficult to keep the crew from spoiling the skin of the shark, when he is got safely on board, by stabs inflicted from a safe distance. Indeed, the excitement of the struggle with a large shark is so great, and the natural enmity between the man and the fish is, at such a moment, so exacerbated, that it is little wonder if vindictive feeling fills the breast of the conqueror, and even men of gentle bearing become transformed for the time, when they see the vengeful glaring eye of the captured fish still struggling to be free, and the snaps of those terrible jaws. Every man feels as if he were avenging the injuries of his race, and there is no occasion that shows more clearly that the—shall we call them—savage instincts of our primæval ancestors are but

covered by the veneer of civilization, than the fight to get a large and vigorous shark on board.

During such an expedition as I have spoken of, many other fish will, no doubt, be caught, and the larder will be supplied with abundance of material, which, if it were only as pleasant to the palate as it is to the eye, would make a banquet for the gods.

For the appearance and colouring of these tropical fish is indeed gorgeous; all the colours of the rainbow will be represented, and many a changing tint between; but, alas! the beauty is only skin deep, and on the table is represented by an unsatisfactory and tasteless dish.

The Barracouta and King-fish will afford the most sport, as well as proving more palatable than most of the others; the former may be caught of considerable size, and weighing up to sixty pounds, while the latter is one of the most vigorous fish in the sea. A few years ago one of this species, in attempting to escape, it is supposed, from some larger enemy, leaped on board a man-of-war in Carlisle Bay, whose

gunwale was more than twenty feet from the water.

There is another mode of fishing which, as it demands but small expenditure of time or money, and is sure to afford enjoyment, if not of one kind yet of another, is much patronized. It is that of catching from a small boat by moon-light the smaller species of fish, which make their home in the shallow waters near the coral reefs.

To the leeward of Bridgetown the sea deepens very slowly, so that at a considerable distance from the shore the water will not be deeper than from forty to sixty feet, with a white coral bottom, which, so pellucid is the sea, is distinctly visible by the light of the moon.

In these shallow lagoons the water is often perfectly still, and the fish can be seen at a great depth issuing from their hiding-places amongst the coral and luxuriant sea-moss and taking the bait. The fisher seems to be looking down into a huge aquarium, and is, as it were, admitted to see the home-life of the finny inhabitants.

On looking landwards Barbados seems to

sleep upon its silver sea, and the spectator, calling to mind the well-known lines of Scott, feels that, if one would view Barbados aright, he must see it, like Melrose, by the pale moonlight!

CHAPTER VI.

SCENERY AND NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS.

The visitor's first glimpse of Barbados disappointing—Absence of streams with river-side foliage—Explanation of this unusual absence of surface-water where the rain-fall is so great as in Barbados—Cole's cave—Curious and unexplained "pittings" in the roof of the cave—Bowmanston well and cave—The author's experience of Bowmanston—The gullies—Attempted explanations—Porey spring—Beauty sacrificed to utility—Iconoclastic tendencies of the negro—Dunscombe Gully—The best time for visiting the gullies—A habit of carelessly grasping at shrubs to be avoided in the gullies—The "Poison-tree," the "Manchinele"—Cases of manchinele poisoning—Welshman's Hall gully—The "orchard"—Stalactites—Remarkable silk-cotton-tree—Strife of nature in West Indian gullies—Offence and defence—Scotland valley—"The crane"—"Cobblers"—Baths, fresh and salt-water—"Long Bay Castle"—Hole Town, Speightstown, Cherry-tree Hill—Whale fishery, sharks.

THE traveller from England starts for the West Indies under the impression that at the

end of his voyage he will meet with that wild luxuriance of tropical vegetation in which he has always pictured these islands to himself as clothed.

His first glimpse of Barbados is sure to be disappointing ! From the deck of the vessel, when at anchor in the bay, his view will consist for the most part of a low, flat shore, lined with warehouses, above which tower here and there a few scattered palm-trees.

The town itself contains little of interest or beauty ; it is not until one leaves its outskirts that he meets with handsome residences standing in well-kept grounds, and it must be remembered, from the first, that this treatise is not meant to advocate a visit to the island on account of its amusements or its scenery, but as a health resort.

Barbados has not the marble halls and palaces of Italian cities ; it does not possess their churches or their picture-galleries ; there is neither casino nor gambling hell ; there is not either that which is too often truly a *beauté du diable*—tropic beauty, that luxuriance of forest vegetation, which, like the bait upon a trap, lures to destruction in

the volcanic islands—but it does possess that which its inhabitants would not barter for them all, *a perfect climate, and the most salubrious in the world !*

But it must not be thought that there is no beautiful scenery in Barbados ; there is, and I shall speak of this farther on, while the wondrous glory (the word is not too strong) of the moonlight is alone worth the voyage from England to see. One who has not been in the West Indies can have no conception of the beauty of the landscape under the brilliant moonlight, by which the most cramped handwriting of a letter may be read as in the day, and to sit in the verandah on such nights, and looking out through the tangles of stephanotis, ipomea, and many another creeper, watch the breakers in lines of silver light, chase each other to the shore, the roar of the surf reduced to a murmur by the distance, the balmy air breathing the perfume of those old favourites, the English roses, from the garden, is enough to make one imagine that he has realized his childhood's dreams of fairyland, and it is difficult to recognize the fact that he is not among the lotus-eaters, but in the midst rather of one huge

factory, a place of intense activity and with a comparatively enormous trade.

The absence of streams, with their fringe of tropic vegetation, mighty ferns, and lofty palms, has often been remarked as a peculiar characteristic of an island in this latitude, whose annual rain-fall is so great as that of Barbados. The true explanation of this unusual absence of surface-streams of running water is, I believe, as follows. There are no streams to be seen over the greater part of the island, except immediately after heavy rain, because of the extreme porosity of the coral rock, which covers, to a depth of from two hundred to three hundred feet, the stiff clay of an older formation. The water cannot lie upon the surface, but sinks rapidly through the rock, percolating till it reaches the substratum of clay, when it forms considerable and perennial streams, but far out of sight.

These streams are eventually poured into the sea, for the most part, it is to be supposed, much below low-water mark.

Freshwater Bay, on the leeward side of the island, gets its name from the quantity of fresh spring water thus introduced, which is

here sufficient in amount to make a perceptible difference in the percentage of saline matter held in solution by the waters of the bay as compared with that of water from the surrounding sea. All along the shore of this bay the bather feels the sand being pushed up under his feet, and can trace in the clear water the ascending jets. Sometimes farther inland, owing to a "fault," the water is nearer to the surface of the soil, and then is gladly utilized. The copious supply of remarkably pure water at present brought into Bridgetown is derived from such a source.

Sometimes, again, the planter, in sinking a well, comes right upon one of these underground streams. There is such a well, for instance, opening upon the stream which runs through "Cole's cave." This stream can be followed underground for many hundred yards, the roof of the cave varying in height from three or four feet to perhaps twenty. Cole's cave will well repay the trouble of a visit. Its mouth is easy of access, and is situated in the bottom of a romantic ravine that, for its own sake, is well worth seeing, and possesses the noblest specimen of the silk-cotton-tree in the island. This tree, towering

far above the other foliage of the ravine, with its enormous buttress-like roots, and supporting many a climbing plant, forms a remarkable object.

A species of wood ant has, however, colonized it, and with infinite labour the insects have conveyed a mass of many hundred-weight of earth and *débris* to one of the great forks far overhead, so that the speedy decay of the solitary giant seems decreed.

Within the cave itself progress is not very easy for some yards, but the passage soon becomes broad and lofty. The floor, too, here is dry, and remains so till “the fork”—that is the spot where the cave divides into two—is reached. This is about three hundred feet from the entrance. The shorter and in every way less interesting branch remains dry, but a great part of the floor of the great cave is occupied by a stream of clear water, which, issuing out of the rock, follows the course of the cave as far as that can be explored. The visitor who wishes above all things to keep his feet dry, had better not attempt to penetrate beyond the beginning of the stream, although if he be willing to do

a little climbing and wading, and have a piece of magnesium wire with him, by burning which he can brilliantly illuminate the cavern, producing some very fine effects, he will probably consider himself well compensated for the trouble he may have been put to. The roof and sides of the cave were at one time covered with stalactites, many of them of great size, but those near the entrance, and generally in the more accessible parts, have been broken off from time to time, and carried away by persons desirous of adorning their gardens with "rockeries."

The farther one penetrates, however, the less the destruction has been, and, in places, enough stalactites remain to form some fine vistas under the light from the burning wire. An argumentative visitor, too, will have an opportunity for proposing and supporting an explanation of the remarkable pittings with which the roof of the cave is, in some places, thickly studded, and of which, so far, no one has been able to assign a fairly satisfactory cause. These pits run perpendicularly upwards into the rock, and vary in size, some being inconsiderable indentations, while others are some twenty inches or more in width and six

or seven inches in depth. Did the little cavities occur in the floor of the cave, they could be easily explained as caused by eddies in the stream, which, by sweeping round pieces of harder stone and gravel, worked them out, just as "The Strid" in Yorkshire has honeycombed its bed with not dissimilar indentations. But there are no pits in the floor of the cave: they are all in the roof.

The largest known underground stream in Barbados, is that opened by the "Bowmanston Well," and to the cavity made by it no natural outlet has been found.

This well had been sunk by the proprietors of the Bowmanston Estate to a depth of two hundred and sixty feet, through the coral formation, when the workmen fell through into a little cave, out of which opened a large cavern. The floor of the latter was strewn with masses of rock, which had evidently fallen from the roof, while a broad stream of rapidly running and very pure water found its way through or underneath the *débris*, with which, in many places, the floor of the cave was piled. Here and there, at unincumbered spots, the stream can be measured, and calculations based upon a series of carefu

measurements afford good ground for belief that the volume of water passing through the cave amounts to a daily average of some two million gallons, a supply that, if it could be brought to the surface and utilized, would go far towards satisfying the wants of the island!

A thorough survey of this cavern has not yet been made, though there have been several partial examinations, and proposals and plans have at various times been sketched for bringing the highly prized water to the surface. Hitherto such plans have remained *in nubibus*, but it is now considered that the skill of hydraulic engineers will enable them to tap the stream higher up, where the expense of pumping or tunnelling will not be nearly so great. It is not very easy to visit the Bowmanston Cave, nor is the place very pleasant to remain in when one has got there. The explorer is let down the shaft in a bucket by a hemp rope attached to a wheel and axle, worked by labourers.

When the writer went down, the drum, on which the rope was coiled, took fire from the friction when he had descended about two

hundred feet, and was still more than sixty feet from the bottom.

The men stopped lowering with a jerk, when the rope, being new and very elastic, allowed the bucket to plunge down and then drew it up, after the manner of a child's toy formed by a doll attached to an india-rubber string, the strands creaking with each stretch in an ominous fashion, and the loose fibre-ends standing out as the "hairs" of an electrified mop.

The sensation experienced while one hung in such a position, receiving too the benefit of the buckets of water poured on the burning drum, and in ignorance of what had happened, but quite conscious that something had gone wrong, though new were not such as, *pace* Virgil's "*juvabit meminisse*," one desires to recall. In the cave itself, water was pouring from the sides and roof in unexpected places, putting out the torches and drenching everything; while, to make matters still more unpleasant, a landslip of many tons of earth and rock occurred while the party was below, seriously endangering the lives of the explorers.

Masses of rock, too, take their own time to

come down from the roof; and altogether Bowmanston Cave is a spot to which the words of Mr. Mantalini seem specially applicable, for it is certainly "demmed damp and uncomfortable!"

No one can have taken a drive into the country in Barbados without having noticed the many deep and steep-sided ravines, here called "gullies," which, sometimes running for a distance of several miles, intersect the cane-fields.

To account for the existence of these gullies has puzzled generations of geologists, some attributing them to the denudating effects of currents, as the island became gradually and slowly elevated above the sea, others believing that they have been caused by the earthquake, which, they say, raised at least the higher parts of the island with sudden violence above the level of the ocean, lacerating the ground in the same manner as happened in a smaller way in some districts of South Italy; while a well-known English hydraulic engineer, who recently examined Bowmanston and Cole's caves, has broached quite a new theory. This authority believes the gullies are the result of underground

streams which have worked their way to the surface, the roof of the cavity hollowed out by each stream falling continuously in, till at last the crust gave way and the cave became a ravine, the caverns above mentioned being thus "gullies in the course of formation."

This explanation, however ingenious, is not, I believe, the true one. The water will not form a stream at all till it has percolated to the layer of stiff clay; on this only in Barbados will it run as a stream; the falling in of the roof of the cave formed in time by the stream would not thus raise the water to a higher level, and it is hard to believe that the falling in of rock to fill the comparatively small cave worn by the streams could have caused the deep indentations, sometimes a hundred yards wide too, of the present "gullies." Besides, the reciprocity, if it may be called so, of the opposite sides of the gullies, so evident in many places, seems to point to the rending or cleaving of seismic action as at least their primary cause.

But however the question as to the origin of the gullies may be finally settled, these ravines give us in Barbados almost our only chance of seeing wild tropical vegetation.

Those in which Cole's Cave and Porey Spring are situated, with those known respectively as Russia and Welshman's Hall gullies, are the chief favourites of picnic parties.

Porey Spring is but seven and a half miles from Bridgetown, an excellent carriage road leading to it and running on into the Scotland district ; indeed if the visitor is pressed for time, he may easily see Porey Spring and Gully, and go on from that place to Hillaby or Turner's Hall Wood on the same day ; but if the saving of time is not an object, he will do well to ramble down the gully towards the sea for some hundred yards, and returning pass the spring and go upward towards Cane Field.

The upper part of the ravine is full of fruit-trees, orange, lemon, and guava predominating. The gorge is narrow, and the cliffs are not so high as in the Russia Gully, but at some spots the view is very pretty. As for the famous spring, it was some twenty years ago improved out of sight. A former proprietor having given the spring to the public, the parochial authorities stepped in and utilized it as best they could for the public benefit.

But, alas ! utility is a terrible foe to the picturesque, and no doubt the action of Barbadian Bumbledom, that sacrificed beauty of landscape, and cribbed, cabined, and confined the leaping cascade within walls and tanks in order merely that a supply of pure water might be conserved for the use of a few hundreds of people, more or less, would have roused the indignation of the disciples of Mr. Ruskin. But there are not many of this school in Barbados, and I believe this piece of sacrilegious vandalism was perpetrated without protest from any one here, while I have even heard folk say that the conservation of the water is a priceless boon to the people.

The stream is now led into a large tank from which the overflow is permitted to escape by several iron pipes placed about eight or nine feet from the ground, and it is a curious sight to see the black wenches standing in a row under the pipes with their tubs upon their heads, and moving off when the vessels are filled, to be replaced immediately by others who have been standing by awaiting their turn, while perhaps several mule-drays with their empty puncheons are

also waiting their time to fill up from a larger escape-pipe placed next the road. If one should visit the spring during the dry season he will meet (for several hundred yards before he arrives at the fountain itself) strings of girls and boys returning with the precious water, bearing it to their often distant homes.

A large bath-room has been provided also and supplied with a constant stream of water from another escape-pipe of the tank.

The bath is also public property and free, a paid custodian being supposed to see that no damage is done to the place by those using it. A stranger may possibly be surprised that there should be no attempt at ornamentation in the design of the stonework or pipes, and can see no good reason why a repulsive ugliness should have been stamped on what, before the "improvement" had been made, was a spot of great natural beauty !

But when he has lived longer here he will find that money spent upon ornamentation of any sort in such a place would be worse than thrown away. The people would pull down and break up anything that could be, without too much trouble, destroyed ;

a proof of this destructive instinct will be found not far from Porey's, where a trough, erected by a philanthropic proprietor for the free use of the people, was pulled to pieces in a very short time. This is not, I believe, from any wilfully malicious intention, but rather from "motor impulses" of the same class as those which impel a little girl to poke out the eyes of her doll, or a boy to cut a hole in the head of his drum.

In this, as in many things of greater importance, it may be said of the Barbadian negroes with peculiar aptitude, that "they are but children of a larger growth."

A drive of half a mile further on from Porey's Spring, up a beautifully situated road, overhung in many places with fruit-trees gay with rainbow-tinted fruit, will bring the visitor to another but deeper and better wooded ravine than that of which we have been speaking—Dunscombe, and so far, at least, I should advise every one to go. But the truth is that in this part of the country these deep gorges are to be met with at every few hundred yards, and although it may be said with some truth of any one, that it is very like the others, yet there is a strong impulse drawing

the visitor on from one to another, and also leading him, when he has descended into a ravine, to ramble on from point to point, anxious to see what the huge projecting rocks are hiding from his view, until at length the declining sun warns him that it is time to retrace his steps.

The mention of the "declining sun" must be the writer's excuse for here obtruding a little advice: it is—if the visitor would see these gullies at their best, he should see them in the late afternoon, say after four o'clock.

Earlier in the day the light is too glaring, and while the sun is almost straight overhead, to say nothing of the sultry heat at the bottom of a deep ravine where no breath of wind perhaps comes, and where one has some rough climbing to do, there is an absence of shadow that detracts from the beauty of foliage and cliff. But when the light has faded a little, and when the sun has sunk low enough to project the shadow of the cliffs on the one side across the bottom of the ravine or well up the opposite side, there is seen a beauty, there is felt a stillness that somehow were not present, or if present were not noticed, in the midday glare. The various tints of the

foliage are more evident, there is a sense of mysterious distance about objects; and the negro's wooden hut, perched on some jutting crag, that in the stronger light looked mean and sordid, a blot upon the landscape, now touched by mild and golden rays is transformed, it no longer disfigures the scene, the scene has glorified it. And now to come to a more practical matter: let the stranger beware how he grasps the shrubs he is passing. Not every tree is harmless here, and often when to save one's self from falling or in mere thoughtlessness one has grasped some branch, he finds too late that his hand is sore and blistered.

One plant is especially to be guarded against. The negroes call it the "poison-tree." Its leaves break off the branches easily, and stem and leaf exude a milky juice, which, if it should happen to fall on hands or face, will surely raise a blister and take off the skin. Even the cattle which, in grazing near one of these plants, receive a drop of this juice upon their body, are burned through hair and hide! The Manchinele tree, too, is one that often punishes the unwary stranger who attempts to eat one of its apples, or

who even takes shelter from rain under its branches. The water dropping off the leaves has already acquired the property of an irritant poison and will raise a painful blister.

The writer once knew a man to have lain drunk under one of these trees, when a heavy shower of rain fell. The man's clothing was soaked through, and he thus nearly paid the penalty of that drunken frolic with his life. He was almost flayed !

Another and peculiar case of Manchinele poisoning also came under my notice. An English gentleman, temporarily residing in the island, was attacked by a sudden and very painful swelling of the hands and arms. The skin became much inflamed, and after a day or two broke into painful sores, while a sharp attack of fever, the result of the great irritation, supervened, and the case assumed, to the puzzled medical advisers, a serious aspect, till the fact came out in conversation that the patient had been lately learning to make "fret-work," and several pieces of worked Manchinele were found upon his shelves. Of course this explained everything ! The fine sawdust had settled upon the worker's hands and arms and occasioned all

the mischief. The wonder was that small particles of the dust had not by inhalation reached the lungs, and set up a still more hurtful irritation in the bronchial tubes.

There is another gully, that of Welshman's Hall, in the same neighbourhood, but more easily reached from Bridgetown by the road passing Warrens, Cane Garden, and Holy Innocents' Chapel, that no one should omit to visit. On reaching the edge of the gully the tourist, leaving his carriage, descends by an easy path running along the side of a little forest of the glossy-leaved and aromatic bay-tree, and soon finds himself at the bottom, and under the welcome shade of a grove of nutmeg and cacao trees, the former, at least, of which he will probably see laden with fruit. Some thirty years ago the then owner of Welshman's Hall cleared this portion of the gully, and planted it with many fruit and spice-bearing trees; but the "orchard" thus made has been long since allowed to run wild again, and were it not for the unusual profusion of fruits (oranges, lemons, nutmegs, and many another), and the presence of the cinnamon-tree (rare in Barbados), one would never suspect that a hoe had been

ever struck into the soil. The visitor can now proceed at his pleasure in either direction, and as the bush portion of the ravine is not of very great extent, it will be advisable to explore the whole.

Turning to the right from the Nutmeg Grove and proceeding down the gully, that is southwards, many stalactites are seen, especially on the cliffs to the left, and attention will be drawn chiefly to one of enormous dimensions and forming a massive pillar in support of the rock, which here overhangs considerably, making a cave of some depth, from which some exquisite glimpses of the ravine may be had through the spaces between the stalactites. The great pillar, stalactite and stalagmite having met, will be found to have a diameter of between four and five feet, and is thus among the largest in the world. Passing on from this, a path is found in this side of the cliff, overhung by the arched rock all the way, while from the roof great masses of limestone, like huge sugar-loaves, are hanging.

The bottom of the glen is here strewn with masses of rock, every crevice in which contains its fern, while considerable trees will

be seen growing out of the solid stone. Many of the smaller coral rocks will be seen pinned to the ground by the roots of the young tree which, growing in the first instance out of some minute crevice, has now stretched its roots round their shoulders into the soil, or has pierced them through with delicate fibres. The cliff on the opposite or right-hand side as one goes down the gully is high and steep, indeed perpendicular, and festooned to the ground with the tendrils and leaves, matted into a web, of lianas and other creepers. From point to point one is tempted on till a roadway crosses the ravine on a bridge, beyond which there is little to be seen, unless indeed one cares to examine some shallow caves which in times gone by had their entrances hung with doors and were used as store-houses.

On retracing his steps to the grove and then proceeding up the gully towards the north, he will see a remarkable specimen of the silk-cotton tree growing on a ledge of the cliff, on what is now the right-hand side. The tree is not nearly so large as that growing in the neighbouring glen of Cole's Cave, but the huge brother's roots are twisted

A West-Indian Sanatorium.

in corkscrew shape: it is as if they were moulded regularly on the wreathed curves; while overhead, high among the branches, is a network of orchids which threaten at no distant date to destroy the tree as completely as the wood-ants will effect the destruction of its huger fellow. Indeed the observant eye cannot help being struck with the evidence there is on all sides of the great battle that is being fiercely though silently waged between the plant world and the animal, or between plant and plant, in the terrible fight for existence that is going on and has been going on from the beginning in these deep and fertile ravines. What wondrous skill is displayed in the choice and perfection of weapons of offence and defence! The strife for mastery between big guns and iron armour is but a clumsy, rudely conducted imitation of the struggle between those keen and deadly weapons and ingenious devices employed in the battle for dear life that is being fought out in every tropical valley. Gigantic trees that one might have thought would have been able in the plenitude of their strength to despise the attack of their tiny enemies, have been yet obliged to devote part of their resources and, what one feels

inclined to call, their *attention* to the development and perfection of systems of defence, and you will see them, like the Sand-box, clothed in a complete suit of mail, their huge boles defended by closely set spines, as sharp as needles, against climbing creatures, while other plants, like the giant grasses, will have armed themselves with cruel hooks, strong and sharp enough to lacerate the hide of an elephant, and moreover, so arranged that those on one half of the great leaf will be curved in one direction, while those on the other half are turned in the opposite, so that no beast may touch them, in passing, with impunity. Others, still more cunningly, distil virulent and deadly poisons to exude and drop upon anything that may rudely threaten their safety.

But it is as impossible for plants as for men to be safe against every enemy, and the tree that is defended against the monkey succumbs to the wood-ant, or still more humble orchid, while the poison that would kill most creatures is yet harmless against another, which seems in its turn to have developed some counteracting principle.

But to return. Passing by the cotton-tree

and an artificial pond covered with aquatic plants, the visitor finds the sides of the glen receding further from one another, and the wood disappearing, the sugar-cane again taking its place. He has now arrived at the summit of the watershed, and by walking a hundred yards further over level ground, still between the now far separated and gradually lessening cliffs, he will come to a narrow roadway or bridle-path, from which he can have a glorious prospect over the famous Scotland Valley, and, if he climb a steep conical peak of coral on his left, will have Hillaby, Farley Hill, the St. Lucy Coast, Belle Plaine, Chalky Mount, and Bissex Hill spread out before him. As I shall in the next chapter speak of this same prospect, as arrived at from another direction, I shall ask the traveller now to return with me to his carriage and so to Bridge-town.

A favourite watering-place of the islanders to which the attention of visitors should be directed, is "The Crane," so called from a shipping place which, with its customary hoisting apparatus, was once to be seen there, but which has long since disappeared, every

vestige of commerce having vanished from this coast, which, though not exposed to so violent a sea as that which thunders against the cliffs of St. Andrews and St. Lucy, yet the uncertainty of currents and the vicinity of the sunken reef of "The Cobblers" have placed at a serious disadvantage for purposes of commerce when compared with places on the sheltered leeward shores. The coast-line for some miles near "The Crane" is rugged and bleak. Vast masses of rock have fallen from the cliffs, or have been rent, by some convulsion, from the mainland. This is especially noticeable at a place a little to the south, where the cliff has been, as it were, split with a wedge from the bottom to the top, a distance of from eight to twelve feet, separating the bases of the rocks, while their summits are, in places, close together, or in actual contact. In a country of skies less bright than those of Barbados, such rocks, thus "beetling o'er their base," would form but gloomy chasms, while here the effect is merely that of a pleasing shade, and the translucent water, admitted through narrow and generally invisible crevices in the seaward bulwarks, lies on its bed of almost

snow-white sand, inviting the visitor to plunge into its cool, clear depths.

Could but such air, such water, and such natural baths be transported to our English coasts, what multitudes of bathers would enjoy them, while here they are almost unknown and but little availed of! There are but some half-dozen "furnished houses" along the cliff, and these are generally tenanted, at least during the warm season, by planters, who bring their families to spend a month or so in the fresh sea breeze. There is, however, ample space for terraces of houses, and nothing but the want of accurate information on the part of the English and American public, and perhaps of a more enterprising spirit among the natives, whose soul seems centred on sugar, prevents "The Crane" from being a crowded sanatorium.

A little to the north, at a spot known locally as "Dawlish," there is a curious natural phenomenon. A cave, to which the sea is admitted by an opening at the bottom of the outward rock, and which is reached by a series of steps cut into or built into the rock, forms a sheltered bath, of course of true sea water, while on ascending the stairs

and looking over a huge stone another cave will be seen lying close beside the former.

The sea is not admitted into the latter, at least not admitted to any extent, but a copious spring of fresh water rises in it, thus forming a fresh-water bath, side by side with that of salt water, of which I have just spoken.

This water, though at times, chiefly when the tides are high and the wind boisterous, slightly brackish, is yet so pure and fresh that a shaft has been sunk into it, and fitted with a pump worked by a windmill. The water thus obtained is used in irrigating the neighbouring land, and as drinking-water for the cattle.

At a distance of about a mile from "The Crane" and within a hundred yards of the sea, stands a large house, known as "Long Bay Castle" or as "Lord's Castle." The building is of a pretentious style, and seems to have been erected with a view to producing the greatest effect for the least expense; the turrets round the roof are of wood, and as the place has been unoccupied for years, these are in some cases out of repair, and so expose their intrinsic weakness, and the doors inside,

though wide and lofty, are but of painted material. The ceilings, indeed, are good and in capital preservation, and the tall fluted mahogany pillars of the drawing and dining rooms have a fine effect. The walls are hung with fine mirrors, or what were fine mirrors, but the keen sea-air, acting for many years, has dimmed them.

The house is too large for the wants of most Barbadian families, and as it is situated further from the sea and cliffs than the other "Bay houses," it is but seldom tenanted.

The visitor to the Crane will at certain seasons be assailed by an unpleasant odour arising from the fields alongside of the road, and will eventually discover that it proceeds from the famous Barbados aloe, which is much grown in the poorer soil and by the smaller land-holders in this district. The area of ground under this crop is not now nearly so great as some years ago, for the natives of other West India islands discovered that the aloe could be grown with very little trouble indeed, and planted it largely, thus destroying the virtual monopoly the Barbadians held for so long, and causing naturally a great depreciation in price. The

result was a corresponding diminution of the area under the crop in Barbados.

The culture of the aloe would suit admirably any farmer who was indisposed to work: the plants are set in the prepared and manured earth, and then give no further trouble for at least five years, except an occasional hoeing between the rows, intended to keep down weeds.

The saving of the crop, too, gives comparatively little trouble, though carefulness and a certain amount of skill at this stage have everything to do with the production of a high-priced or a cheap article. The plant (the leaves, by the way, have a row of strong sharp hooks along each edge) are grasped skilfully in the hand and cut across each leaf close to the ground. The thick brownish juice begins to run at once from the cut, but the plants are immediately placed over a tub, and little, if any, is lost. The leaves are not crushed at all, as the slightest pressure would cause a portion of the solider parts of the leaf to mingle with the juice, to the detriment of the quality of the finished article.

The collected juice is subjected to various boilings, and finally stored in great gourds,

which are obtained from St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Attention has hitherto been drawn only to places reached by drives through the middle of the island or along the windward coast, but a very pleasant drive may be taken along the leeward coast, through Holetown (the oldest settlement in Barbados), to Speightstown, and thence turning to the east and towards the hills to Cherry-tree Hill. It would be well to break the journey for an hour at Speightstown for breakfast, but as there is no hotel, the excursionists should make arrangements beforehand to have a room prepared, and some hot vegetables provided against their arrival. Beer and other liquors can be had on the spot; and cold meat, &c., being brought with them, they will be in a position to enjoy a hearty breakfast, after which they can proceed to Cherry-tree Hill.

On arrival at this place, after a drive of some half-hour's duration from Speightstown, the carriage is left under the shade of a grove of mahogany-trees, and the tourist walks a few yards, when suddenly a splendid view appears spread out before him. Here, as at

St. John's Church, the prospect opens as suddenly, and with as little warning of what is to come as that which lies before one who walks up to the "Kuhstall," in the Saxon Switzerland. The change of scenery from that through which the whole drive has been taken is striking. From Bridgetown, through Holetown and Speightstown, and even up to the summit of the hill on which the spectator is standing, he has been in the midst of the coral formation, but now that has disappeared. He seems to be standing on the top of the crater of a gigantic but extinct volcano, of which the side and bottom are cultivated. It is the Scotland district that is before him, but seen from quite a different point from any we have yet seen, indeed from quite an opposite direction. On the return journey it will be well to stop for a short time at Holetown, and examine the old church, the first that was built in Barbados, which contains many monuments and memorials dating back to within a few years of A.D. 1600.

Speightstown and Holetown were once places of considerable trade, but this has long since deserted them for the more commodious quays of Bridgetown. A whale-

fishery is still carried on at Speightstown, and much sport may be had in shark-catching when a captured whale is being stripped of its blubber. The workmen are at such a time too busy to do more than make an occasional lunge with their cutting-spades at any shark who is too greedy; each party seems intent on its own business—that is, to secure as much blubber as it can.

The largest shark ever caught in Barbadian waters was taken close alongside a captured whale. This fish measured twenty-five feet in length, and a man of 5 ft. 6 in. in height could walk through his gaping jaws. A terrible enemy such a creature as this must be, and a very different fish to capture from those so-called “man-eating sharks,” of which a recent and well-known writer has told us that he caught nine-and-twenty in one afternoon in an open boat near the Cape of Good Hope!

The fish so spoken of are said to have measured over four feet, and to weigh thirty pounds; they were no doubt “puppy sharks,” who had but just started the business of life on their own hooks when they swallowed those of the fisher.

CHAPTER VII.

SCENERY AND NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS
(*continued*).

Bathsheba—Primitive manners of coloured folk—How to get to Bathsheba—"Scotland"—Rides in the neighbourhood of Bathsheba—View of the Scotland Valley from bridle-path, near Cane Field—The "oil wells"—The potteries—How to get to them—Manufacture of arrowroot—The Barbados (infusorial) earth—Preparation of slides for the microscope—Belle Plaine—Freshets in the Scotland rivers—Partial nature of tropical showers—The "Animal-Flower Cave"—Difficulty of visiting the cave—The carpet-room—The zoophytes—Why those inside the cave are so beautiful—The vorticellæ of pond-water—Effects of light in the cave very similar to those in cavern near the "Giant's Causeway"—Bissex Hill—Hackleton's Cliff—St. John's Church—The last of the Palæologi—Turner's Hall Wood—The "boiling spring."

NO one should leave Barbados without having paid a visit, if but for a few days, to

Bathsheba, on the north-eastern or windward coast, a place where there is really no hot season, and where the mosquito plague of Bridgetown, from July to November, and more or less round the year, is unknown. Bathsheba lies under Hackleton's Cliff, which, rising to a height of from 800 to almost 1100 feet, runs, under different names, for several miles round the windward coast, affording many splendid views.

The coast-line here is rugged, and the rocks, worn by the tremendous surf, take fantastic shapes. The black and coloured folk in the neighbourhood are extremely primitive in dress and manners, and may be seen fishing from the ledges of the rocks, *in puris naturalibus*, presenting, I suppose, much the same appearance, and using implements almost as primitive as their progenitors did as they fished from the banks of the Niger or the Congo a thousand years ago. Bathsheba is most easily reached by the railway, which, descending from the higher level by very steep gradients cut into the face of the cliff, gives the traveller, especially in the morning, some excellent glimpses of the coast scenery of Consett's Bay.

One can also, of course, drive to Bathsheba from Bridgetown—the distance by road is just under fourteen miles—but the road from the summit of the heights, zigzagging down the face of the cliff, is too steep for the comfort of either passengers or cattle, and as, through the complaisance of the railway management, the trains stop at the several houses near Bathsheba to take up or set down passengers, and as the fares are extremely low—under a halfpenny a mile for first-class return tickets—it is needless to say that the latter route is generally preferred. Whether because Bathsheba is situated right “in the wind’s eye,” which there blows directly off the sea, I cannot tell, but certain it is that the difference of temperature of that place and those on the southern and western or leeward coasts is marked. It is highly probable that this difference is caused by the greater force and freshness of the breeze at Bathsheba. Hastings, lying but two miles east of Bridgetown, but more exposed to the wind, is much cooler than the latter place, but Bathsheba is cooler than Hastings. Bathsheba is within easy distance, by riding, of the finest views in “Scotland,” as the hilly (northern) end of

Barbados is called. The scenery in this part of the island will be found much more diversified than that towards the south or near Bridgetown. Indeed, it is possible to spend considerable time in the neighbourhood of the latter place, and then to leave Barbados under the impression that there is little or nothing in the way of good scenery to be had. On entering the district of Scotland, however, it is as if one had suddenly been transferred to a different island. The coral formation has disappeared, the colour of the soil is different, and there are unmistakable and steep-sided hills.

Starting from Bathsheba a very pleasant ride may be had by going up "Horse Hill" and so by the high-road to Castle Grant.

If one turns off by a track to the left, which meets the road just beyond this place, he will soon find himself amidst some of the finest scenery Barbados affords; for his path crosses the head of Welshman's Hall Gully, which he can from this place enter easily, and leads him close to the celebrated Porey Spring.

Having passed Lammings, the bridle-path cut in the side of a coral cliff, just where that

formation ceases, will lead him under immense rocks, which, here and there, over-canopy the rugged track, the ground descending almost perpendicularly under his feet to the bottom of the deep and fertile valley that lies between the Mount Hillaby range and that continued by Bissex Hill and terminated in the sea by the precipitous chalky mount. The valley, viewed from this path, is very lovely. Near at hand and immediately below the spectator's feet the landscape is thickly studded with fruit-trees. The bread-fruit tree, the bread nut, the lemon, orange, mango, sapadilla, golden apple, custard apple, sugar apple, with many another overshadow the little huts that dot the steep slopes, and perch upon every jutting rock, and by their variously tinted foliage and many-coloured fruit, diversify the pervading greenness; the fruit, by the way, will be thought by many, like the gorgeously painted tropical fish, to make great promise to the eye and break it to the taste. The steep side of the hill is unfit for the growth of the sugar-cane, and so it comes about that it is possessed as "spots" (often freehold) by many of the black people and "Redlegs," who grow on their tiny patches

arrowroot and fruit, to the great improvement of the landscape.

The rich cane-producing valley lies between its defending hills, stretching away for miles and terminated by a strip of glistening sand, beyond which is a fringe of dazzling foam, and then the indescribable blue of the ocean. To the stranger who has been previously acquainted but with the tame scenery of the neighbourhood of Bridgetown, the first glimpse of this valley will be a revelation.

On proceeding further, the visitor finds the bridle-path strike the road again, by following which he will pass "Cane Field" with its glowing hibiscus bloom, and still further on will descend into a deep and narrow glen with precipitous, but wooded sides, and crossing by a rude bridge a little stream that rushes at the bottom in many a miniature cascade, will find a by-path towards the right which leads to the foot of a conical hill, Mount Misery, from the summit of which the sea can be seen lying all round the island except at one point where the Peak of Hillaby shuts it from view.

From "Cane Field" it is but a few minutes' ride to Porey's Spring, but as that place can

be easily reached from town, and the ground already covered is quite enough for one day's work, it is better to return to Bathsheba by the road past "Maynard's," which runs through a picturesque part of the country, when, taking the way towards Bissex Hill and descending on the south-eastern side by a steep roadway, the tourist can regain his hotel by way of "Friezers," "Nullows," and "Joe's River."

Within fifteen minutes' walk of Bathsheba, the way lying along the sea-shore, towards the north-west lies the district from which paraffin oil is still obtained, although the supply falls far short of what it was when the wells were first sunk. These oil-wells are situated in a bare and desolate-looking gorge of the Chalky Mount Hills, close to the railway and the sea-shore.

Above the wells, and occupying many of the summits and ravines of the hills between Chalky Mount and Bissex Hill, are the "potteries," where one of the few industries of Barbados is carried on. It must not be understood that there is any large manufactory; there is not, and very little indeed of co-operation among the workers. Every

man mixes his own clay, has his own rude wheel, generally turned by some member of his family in his little hut, and finally his own furnace, and thus there is little or no division of labour.

The ware produced is, as might be expected, coarse, and marked by singular sameness of design as to shape. But the very coarseness of the ware forms, as it is used in Barbados, its greatest merit. It is very porous, and the vessels permit a rapid evaporation of water, especially when placed in the wind, thus keeping the contents at a temperature much lower than that of the surrounding air.

For this reason, although the ware is sold at a small price, it is highly valued, and no Barbadian home, from the Governor's residence down to the poorest hut, is considered furnished without its assortment of "guglets" and "monkeys," as they are called, according to their shape and the absence or presence of a handle and spout.

The vase-shaped vessels with narrow mouths and without handles are "guglets;" those in shape much like a tea-kettle, and generally larger than the former, are "monkeys;" while a third form, larger than

either of the others, and with two small side-handles, is called a "connaree."

As these vessels are very brittle, and with the greatest care do not last long, there is a considerable demand for them; but as the negro much prefers working in an independent manner and in the shade in his own hut to field labour, the competition of the manufacturers brings down the price to the "irreducible minimum" by selling below which the maker could not live. The part taken by the women of the family is that of distribution, and it is wonderful to see how these poor creatures descend their steep hills with enormous loads of ware stacked on large trays upon their heads. These huge burdens they will carry fourteen or fifteen miles into Bridgetown, remaining in the town and neighbourhood till they have cleared off their stock, a process they can only effect by walking many miles from house to house. The ease with which even a slight young girl will raise so heavy a load and place it on her head, and the steadiness with which she will carry it, her figure upright as a dart, are striking.

The potters themselves are a cheerful, independent lot, and not inclined to work

or worry more than they need. When watching the dark-skinned, half-naked potter at his primitive wheel in Barbados, it seems strange to think that from such humble origin sprang the art to which the highest skill, immense capital, and well-organized labour are at that very moment being devoted at Meissen, Sèvres, or Belleek! The contrast is scarce greater between the fish-bone arrow-head and the breech-loading gun!

To get to the potteries from Bathsheba it is advisable to procure a pony, or still more sure-footed mule, as there will be some rather steep climbing to do, as well as considerable distances to travel. But let the visitor see to it that his saddle is tightly girthed on, for the writer will not easily forget how rapidly the descent of many yards may be made, if once, on your mule struggling up some more than usually steep bank, your saddle and yourself slip over the animal's tail. It is in this district also that, on patches among the hills, too small and with soil of too poor a nature for the successful cultivation of sugar-cane, which requires a deep and fertile earth, arrowroot is grown, and the manufacture of this article forms one

of the minor industries. Arrowroot is prepared in Barbados in a fashion as primitive as pottery, and the visitor who would see the manufacture of the starch on a large scale should make an excursion to the neighbouring and surpassing lovely island of St. Vincent, where Mr. Cloke, the owner of the "Fancy Estate"—a name now familiar to the public through the celebrated "Fancy" biscuits—takes pleasure in showing strangers the newest and most improved processes. Those in use here are simple enough. The proprietor or tenant of an arrowroot patch usually owns a queer little windmill, a toy mill almost, and not seldom half in ruins, the worn sails sometimes eked out with garments that, being no longer of any avail for "raising the wind," are utilized for catching it. The owner is of a thrifty mind, and so on one corner of a sail a patch, evidently from a piece of bifurcated apparel, is balanced by a fragment of a circular one on another.

In these mills the cleansed roots are ground, the expressed juice being allowed to settle, and the surface liquid then poured off. The deposit of fine powder is then washed with water, and again allowed to

settle, this process being repeated according to the degree of purity required in the manufactured article, and the powder or starch finally resulting is spread on boards to dry. The manufacture of the article is not of so great proportions as to supply any for exportation.

Much of the soil of this neighbourhood is composed of the famous deposit of Barbados (infusorial) earth, which consists almost entirely of microscopic shells of marvellous beauty and diversity of form and pattern.

No one possessing a microscope should leave it behind on coming to Barbados. In the examination of this infusorial earth alone, in the selection of the most perfect and beautiful forms, and in the attempt to pick out and successfully mount these lovely and fragile objects, I can promise the microscopist a most interesting and absorbing task. An expensive microscope is not needed for this work, nor are high-power object-glasses; indeed, the latter are useless, and I would recommend a two-inch objective with number three eye-pieces, though a one-inch objective may be used with advantage to examine mounted specimens of the smaller forms, if,

at the same time, number one eye-pieces are attached.

By roasting the cleansed shells, splendid slides for viewing by reflected light can be obtained, and in this instance a binocular microscope will be preferable; but for my part, nothing can be better than mounting the shells, as they come from the washing, in Canada balsam, and examining them by the Paraboloid illuminator. Certainly the preparation of these slides is entrancing work, and it is difficult to speak of the loveliness of the various forms of the polycysteria with due sobriety.

Generally speaking, the microscopist will find in Barbados many interesting objects for examination, and he will meet a clever manipulator and enthusiastic fellow-worker in Mr. Harrison, the island professor of chemistry, a visit to whom at the Government laboratory will prove highly enjoyable to any one taking an interest in biological and similar studies.

Bissex Hill and the range leading to Chalky Mount contain numerous fossils, and sharks' teeth are found in numbers at the very summit. These fossil teeth are quite

as large as those of the biggest sharks taken at the present day.

But to return to the Bathsheba coast. The railway having passed close under the three serrated peaks of Chalky Mount—there is little more than room, by the way, for the line, between the precipitous sides of the hill and the sea—turns inland round the furthest of them, entering a secluded corner (Belle Plaine) of the valley, which has been already spoken of as affording such exquisite views from the Cane Field road. At this point the plain is enclosed on all sides, even from the sea, from which it is separated by a line of lofty sand-dunes. The parish church of St. Andrew and the rectory are snugly esconced in this little nook, than which, at least until the recently constructed railway invaded its privacy, it is impossible to imagine a spot more completely cut off from the outer world. Surely if the ministers of pain and sorrow, if the Angel of Death himself could be supposed to have forgotten to visit any spot on earth, that spot would be remote Belle Plaine, in this far-distant island of the West. The most considerable stream in Barbados, “Scotland River,” finds its way towards the

sea through this valley, but even this for a great part of the year is but a tiny rivulet in the bottom of a roomy bed, and towards the end of the dry season is reduced to a thread of water, if it does not altogether disappear.

On the other hand, in common with Joe's River, which enters the sea under "Tenby House," near Bathsheba, it is liable to sudden freshets, which come down from the hills so unexpectedly as sometimes even to sweep away women engaged in washing in the pools left here and there in the deeper parts of the bed. The writer once witnessed the descent of one of these floods in Joe's River, and a brief description of what occurred may not be out of place.

I was staying at "Tenby," immediately behind which the so-called "river" runs in the bottom of a steep-sided and rugged gully.

There had been a long spell of dry weather and, so far as could be seen from the verandah overhanging the sea, there did not appear any probability of its being speedily broken by rain. The sun was on this side shining in unclouded splendour, when a

distant murmur was heard growing into a louder growl at every moment, and culminating in a very few seconds in a roar that, inexplicable as it seemed, caused some alarm. Immediately there was a shout from some of the servants, of which only the word "river" could be distinguished, and on my rushing to the back of the house, which is built as close to the edge of the ravine on that side as it is to the sea-wall of cliff on the other, a surprising sight presented itself. A dark and, to appearance, but semi-fluid mass of some feet in height was sweeping rapidly down the gully, and before one had time to ejaculate an expression of astonishment, the bed of the stream was half full of a boiling mass of what could scarcely be called water, it was so thick and black (the Sal in Manchester is not blacker, but that polluted stream is fluid, while this seemed semi-solid mud). On falling, as it did within a few feet of where I stood, over huge rocks, it was to be seen churned into foam, but the foam was black.

Every moment the river of mud ran fuller, while the roar was tremendous, completely drowning the human voice ; but in about a

quarter of an hour after the sound of the coming flood was heard, it had reached its greatest volume, and in perhaps forty minutes more had begun to shrink again, although a considerable body of water—then comparatively clear—ran down for many hours. Next morning, however, there was little trace of the flood, except that branches of trees that grew on the sides of the gully retained, suspended high and dry, fragments of cane and other agricultural produce, and the sea was much discoloured as far as could be seen along the coast, and from a quarter to half a mile from the shore. The effect of the freshet upon the colour of the sea was much greater than even those who had seen its volume could have supposed. The dazzling whiteness of the foam of the breakers was changed in the first hour of the violence of the torrent, to an inky hue, and afterwards to a sullen mud colour, which remained for two or three days, but growing gradually clearer, while an unpleasant earthy odour arose from the sea-shore, strewn as it was with *débris* brought down by the flood.

Of course this great quantity of water did not rise out of the ground, and indeed as

soon as one had glanced towards the north-western part of the sky, that is in the direction of the Scotland Hills, an explanation was easily arrived at. Black clouds lay upon the summit of the "cliff," and it was evident that there had been heavy rain over the upper part of the watershed of Joe's River ; while on the sea-coast, that is within a distance, say, of two miles, there had been all the time brilliant sunshine. The extremely partial nature of tropical showers is often a matter of surprise to strangers from temperate climes. Small as the island of Barbados is, it is yet possible for one district in it to be flooded with water, while in another the crops are being burnt red for the want of it, and for that matter it is nothing unusual for a tennis party to be broken up by heavy rain, while on lawns a few hundred yards away not a drop has fallen ; and sometimes much amusement is caused by the drowned-out players migrating in a body and claiming a share in the good fortune of their luckier neighbours.

Lying beyond Belle Plaine and the parish of St. Andrew's, and occupying the northern extremity of the island, in the parish of St. Lucy. All along the eastern shore of this

district the coast is precipitous, the cliffs descending at many places sheer into deep water, and, fully exposed as they are to the prevailing wind and the force of the mighty billows that, gathering speed and power as they sweep from the mid-ocean, hurl themselves against them, are worn into deep caverns, of which one, the "*Animal-Flower Cave*," has gained a wide reputation, not so much for the size of the cavern, though that is considerable, but on account of its curious and beautiful inhabitants, a species of zoophyte (*Actinia*). For a stranger in the island to visit this cave is a serious undertaking, for, in the first place, the situation is remote and with difficulty reached from either Bathsheba or Bridgetown; and in the second, it is almost impossible for even a young and active man to gain the entrance in safety, except during comparatively calm weather, such indeed as does not often occur from November to April or May.

There is, perhaps, no coast in the world from which a better idea of the power and grandeur of the sea can be formed. The huge waves come in with a noise like thunder, and rise almost to the edge of the cliff (they are

said often to "lip over" when a strong breeze is blowing), and then retreating, leave behind them a series of cascades of foam which have scarcely ceased to descend before the next wave dashes in. To one standing on the summit of the cliff they seem indeed irresistible, and it is as if the island itself were but floating and dancing among them. In some instances the caves are connected with the surface by narrow, perpendicular passages, and when the breeze is strong, the sea, throwing itself against the cliff and filling the caverns, rushes through these "spouts" with a hiss and a roar, followed on the retreat of the water by a loud rushing of air to take its place. It is said that when a strong wind is blowing, the main "spout" throws up a column of water to a height of forty feet, which can be seen for miles. The entrance to the "Animal-Flower Cave" is in the face of a steep cliff, and is reached by crossing, when you have descended the cliff, a ridge of rock, called from its shape the Saddle, which crossing must be made during the interval between the retreat of one wave and the advance of the next. If one is caught on the ridge by an incoming billow, it is all over with

him ; but in very calm weather there is not the slightest danger, and if the sea is moderate, sufficient time is given between the waves to cross easily. When the inside of the cave is gained, the floor is found to slope upwards, and there is no further danger. Passing on from the first and larger cave—for the cavern consists really of several, all opening on the sea, and connected with each other by rifts of greater or less width—the visitor arrives at a smaller, called the "Carpet Room," from the beautiful mosaic of marine algæ with which the bottom is covered. In the midst there is an almost circular basin containing a large stone covered by water of wonderful transparency and clearness. The basin is filled by water thrown in by the waves, but it is hard to imagine that those mighty masses of water which you saw a moment before thundering against the cliff could have been so tamed as to pour in such a gentle, trickling stream. It is indeed, as Schomburgk says, as if the genius of the grotto had subdued their violence, and they seem to kiss his feet. To stand inside and see the mass of water rush against the outer entrance, filling it completely up, and producing semi-darkness

inside, one would think that the caverns would be filled, and all who were within them drowned; but a sense of security soon comes, and the visitor is at liberty to look round and examine the grotto at his ease.

At first sight he will probably see some stems, as of aquatic plants, projecting from the stone, and floating in the water of the basin; but let him keep still, and leave the water undisturbed, and presently the bulbous end of a stem will flash suddenly open, displaying a lovely flower. Within a few seconds there is a garden where before there was but the bare stone lying on its bed of moss! But let there be the slightest attempt made to pluck a flower, and that and its nearer neighbours suddenly close, the whole tube contracts, and is withdrawn into a crevice of the rock, to be cautiously thrust out again in a few minutes, when, if the water is still, the flower-like disk will be spread.

The flowers, most of them of a pale-yellow colour, resemble single marigolds, having many petals. There are others of other colours, red and blue also. *Actiniæ* are not rare around the Barbadian reefs, but those in

the open water have not the brilliant colouring of the inhabitants of the cave.

Those outside in the constantly moving sea do not need such attractions. For the seeming petals of the flower are the arms or feelers of the animal, which suddenly contract upon and enclose those particles which come within their reach, and are suitable for the creature's food. Now, on the open coral reef, every eddy and current sweep into these open arms of the animal its prey; but in the stillness of that cool grot there are no currents, and the actinia, chained to its rock and left without a food supply, would starve and perish. Here there is a wonderful instance of the adaptability of living things to a new environment. The actinia sets a trap! It cannot pursue its prey, there are no currents to bring it food; its food then shall come of itself! And so the ugly, graceless feelers become as the petals of a lovely flower, glowing with brilliant colours, a cruel trap for the creatures that thought only of sweetness and light.

In our own ponds at home there are little microscopic creatures (*Vorticellæ*), invisible to the naked eye, which have developed food-

traps on a very similar plan. They are to be seen in numbers in a drop of pond-water, like lilies on their slender stems, but instead of falling back on colour with which to bait a trap, they would make currents and eddies for themselves; so they developed a circlet of long hairs, or cilia, about the edge of the lily-like cup, and by the lashing of these with rhythmic motion little whirlpools are produced which suck into the cup the food of the creature. The curious property of contractibility of stem is possessed by both actiniæ and vorticellæ, and the microscopic animal and its larger congener alike present to the observer wonderful instances of adaptation of means to end, an adaptation as perfect as if it were the result of the working of a reasoning mind. Verily this world is full of traps for the unwary; and surely that trap, with its bait of delicate colouring, developed slowly, perhaps, and after many failures, in the "Animal-Flower Cave" in Barbados, is not the least ingenious.

Before leaving this subject it may be remarked with regard to the semi-darkness and the peculiar shades of light produced when the waves rush up the cliff and cover the

entrance, that there is a cave near the "Giant's Causeway" into which, at certain states of the tide, it is possible to go, and where the sea, although not of the cerulean hue of the Barbadian waters, produces very similar effects of light. Those who have been in the "Causeway" cavern (I fear they are but few) will have no difficulty in imagining the sensations of the visitor to that in Barbados when the first wave after his hurried entrance sweeps up hissing through the cave, plunging the whole place into almost midnight gloom!

It does not say much for the enterprise of the owners of the soil immediately above the cave that an entrance has not been tunnelled from the land side. This could be done very easily; and a small charge to visitors passing through it would be sure to pay good interest on the very little capital necessary for the work.

There are two other points of view from which the visitor should not fail to see the prospect; the summit of Bissex Hill, and that of Hackleton's Cliff.

The sides of Bissex Hill are very steep on the north, east, and south, and are cut into

gorges by the torrents of water that during heavy rain rush down in great volume and with tremendous violence. As at the summit of the hill and for some distance down the sides, there is little or no foliage, the immediate view is not so pleasing; but when the spectator's eyes are raised from the depth directly under his feet and he looks across the plain on either side, the prospect is one of extreme beauty. Valley, and glen, and chasm are all around, and hill is piled on hill, or rises abruptly from the plain; but often on the steepest ridges—indeed, wherever a basketful of earth can be got to stick, there is a fruit-tree or a patch of arrowroot, while in the broader and more cultivable spots the almost omnipresent sugar-cane holds its ground. The Scotland Hills form an amphitheatre, enclosing the view on three sides, and when you turn to the east the contrast is striking, for there is scarce a trace of tropical verdure; before you lie the bare, scarred peaks of Chalky Mount, and beyond, the dark expanse of the ocean.

Bissex Hill is easily reached by those who can walk or ride, from Bathsheba, and Hackleton's Cliff is distant but a mile or a mile and

a half from the same place, even by the winding, corkscrew road.

The view from Hackleton's Cliff is very different in its characteristics from that seen from Bissex Hill, although the two places are not far asunder, and are partially visible, the one from the other. The cliff itself is bold and steep, and of considerable height. Its face is quite covered with grasses, ferns, creeping plants, and various species of palm.

On every piece of projecting rock some tree has literally planted itself, so that at a little distance, and seen from below, the range of cliffs look like walls of foliage. Some distance to the south, but still on the same plateau, is the parish church of "St. John's," perched on the very edge of the chasm, which descends deep and dark to the valley lying so far below. St. John's Church is most easily reached by the tourist, by driving along excellent roads from Bridgetown. On reaching the churchyard gates there is nothing to tell the stranger that so magnificent a prospect will, by his crossing over a few yards, be disclosed, and he finds himself standing over the abyss with feelings in which surprise and perhaps just

a little of fear—the disclosure is made so suddenly—are mingled with unfeigned admiration! No description could do justice to the prospect from this point or to that from near Cotton Tower on Hackleton's Cliff, and it is better to leave the traveller to see for himself than to attempt to picture the scene in words.

To stand at either of these points when the sun is sinking behind one in the west, and the lower parts of the valley lying between the foot of the cliffs and the sea are every moment assuming deeper tones of darkness and eclipse, is an experience which would compensate for many unpleasantnesses in reaching such a coign of vantage; but there is no unpleasantness to be compensated for, and the visitor can indulge in all the pleasure of cheaply bought delight!

The parish church of St. John, apart from its situation, is handsome, and the interior is in good taste. An interest attaches to it, however, which, even if it were an ugly structure built amid mean surroundings, might entice the attention of the tourist, for here lies all that is mortal of Ferdinando Palæologus one of the last descendants of

the illustrious line of the emperors of the East. When the victorious followers of the Crescent had disgraced the sacred symbol of the Cross in that great city in which it had for centuries received such reverential honour, and had driven those who survived the last terrible assault into distant lands or enslaved them, the remnant of the proud family of the Constantines wandered over the countries of Europe, seeking a rest and home. Like so many other representatives of fallen fortunes, the Palæologi seem to have gravitated to England, attracted by that great force of sympathy our nation has ever felt with distressed insulted dignity, and so it came about that Ferdinando visited Barbados and became proprietor of the estate now called Ashford, and, in course of time, dying, was buried after the manner of the members of the Eastern Church in St. John's.

His son Theodore died not long after himself, and the estate passed away from the family, of which there are no representatives left in the island. But there on that high, lonely cliff, surely no unfit spot, looking towards the old world, across the still more lonely sea, Palæologus sleeps—his face to

the east—waiting, to use his own departing words, “to attend the joyful resurrection of the just.”

Turner’s Hall Wood, clothing a spur of the Scotland Hills, is visited by most travellers who come to Barbados, and is the favourite resort of picnic parties. This is a bit of real tropical forest, and the only remnant of the woods which once covered the whole island. The wonder is how it has survived till now, for where land sells at the enormous price that it brings here, and at a spot where no manor-house pleads in favour of the prospect from the windows, the incentives towards deforesting must be powerful. However, the wood stands to this day; let us hope that for many a year it may hold its ground against that terrible foe to the wild and free beauties of nature, the sugar-cane!

Once or twice the writer has known shooting-parties to be arranged with a view to “bagging” some of the large, long-tailed monkeys which yet “people”—the word does not seem far wrong—the wood, but those who have heard the cries of a wounded mother-monkey, as she strives to save at least her young, are not usually fond of

renewing their experience, and, indeed, such "sport" could not be indulged in here without exterminating the game in a very short time, as the wood is too small in extent, and monkeys do not increase in numbers rapidly.

The so-called "Boiling Spring" is in this wood, but it must be remembered that the spring does not boil in the literal sense—it is not even warm; but a gas (carburetted hydrogen) that escapes through a crevice at the bottom of a little cup-shaped depression, bubbles up through the water, which thus seems to boil. After heavy rain, when no doubt the underground reservoirs are full of water, and the gas is thus under greater pressure than usual, a considerable quantity escapes, and on the application of a lighted match at such times to the surface of the pool, takes fire and burns all over the "spring" with a feeble, flickering flame, which yet gives out great heat. In dry weather the gas escapes in much smaller volume and must be collected in a kind of inverted funnel, at the top of which it burns freely, and is thus used to boil the tourist's tea-kettle or to cook his eggs.

The wood is reached by a long but pleasant drive from Bridgetown, but as it is but three miles from Belle Plaine station, visitors who are staying at Bathsheba can arrange to be driven over from there, or indeed, if they be vigorous people, may walk there and back in the afternoon.

CHAPTER VIII.

SOCIOLOGY.

The difficulty of writing impartially on this subject—The whites remain essentially Englishmen—Quotation from the protest of the Barbados Legislature against the tyrannical proceedings of Cromwell's Parliament—Sale of Europeans as slaves in Barbados—A supposed reason of the selection of Barbados as the place of exile of the "Irishry," and explanation of the term "Red-leg"—The coloured population—Prosperity of Barbados due to density of population, and this caused by great salubrity of the place—Land running to waste in Jamaica after the "Emancipation"—Dislike of the negro to emigrate from Barbados—The porters of Bridgetown—Road repairs—The negro does not improve upon close acquaintance—Puzzling contrasts in points of conduct of the blacks—Absence of organized ruffianism—The thieving propensities of the natives—Honesty "surprising," but to be met with—Intellectual development of the negro arrested at the age of puberty.

It is with something of diffidence, even if not with trepidation, I enter upon the subject of

this chapter, in which I propose to speak chiefly, and as briefly as I may, of the people of Barbados and their social condition, for this is a topic on which it is difficult to be judicially impartial, one is so likely unconsciously to allow prejudices, misconceptions or even ignorance to mislead him in one direction or another.

That is a true saying of the philosophers, "We see not that which is, but only that we have the faculty of seeing." How partial often and how purblind is the vision we have for our neighbour's circumstances and motives! How crude and ill-digested, how thoroughly worthless our judgments often are!

But there is one qualification at least to which I may lay claim, when undertaking to write this chapter, without which indeed even the knowledge gained by many years of intimate union with the natives of Barbados would prove vain—that of sympathy with those of whom I write.

I shall endeavour so to write that if it must be said I have "nothing extenuated," it may be added, too, that I have not "set down aught in malice!"

The whites form at the present day but a

small and still constantly decreasing fraction of the whole population of Barbados, and about them it is not necessary to speak at any great length. And this not because they are not important, for they are still and must long remain the governing class, but because they are simply Englishmen; not less nor more!

It must not be forgotten, as we in England too often seem inclined to forget, that the colonists of Barbados have not ceased to be Englishmen in feature, and as little in natural characteristics, though their fathers for several generations may have been born in the island. When the English settlers colonized this place—and mark, some of the best blood in England was in their veins—they changed but their sky, they did not change their minds! They brought with them the obstinate tenacity of purpose, dogged perseverance, and untiring energy of their race, and turned this island in time into a garden. They brought with them, too, that love of freedom and sturdy independence which then perhaps above all else characterized the English nation, and which made this island, as it were, a nursing mother for other and larger colonies which

were emboldened to follow in her footsteps and imitate her courage.

It does one good in these days of "scuttle" and surrender, to hear the English ring in the words they dared to use towards the victorious and all-powerful Parliament in 1650: "It is certain that we, the present inhabitants of this island, were and still be that people of England who, with great danger to our persons, and with great charge and trouble, have settled this island in this condition, and inhabited the same . . . and we doubt not but the courage which hath brought us thus far out of our own country to seek our beings and our livelihoods in this wild country, will maintain us in our freedoms; without which our lives will be uncomfortable to us. . . . And we cannot think that there are any amongst us who are soe simple and soe unworthily minded, that they would not rather chuse a noble death, than forsake their old liberties and privileges."

These were the men that colonized Barbados, and such for the most part their sons remain. Many families have altogether left the colony, probably retiring to England, and thus of the old names a great number

are now missing. Members, again, of other old families have come to grief from one cause or another, and their descendants are now living in humble positions ; but it would be a serious mistake to suppose, as one is likely to do, and as indeed very many have done, that the "mean whites" are the degenerated descendants of the former proprietors of this island. The mean whites are, most of them, the descendants of those unfortunates (many of them English gentlemen, royalist officers, and divines) who were sold here as slaves during the Commonwealth. The Government of the day was not so particular as we might think they should have been ; they did not always take the trouble to make sure whether these gentlemen were actively royalist after the execution of the king or not, and the petition of several of them to the home Government seems to show that little inquiry was made. No doubt the more of these poor people who were sold as plantation slaves the better for the pocket of the public officials who had charge of the transportation and sale, and so royalist gentlemen changed hands quickly at the rate of fifteen hundred pounds of sugar per man.

When such treatment could be meted out to English gentlemen, what wonder that Irish peasant women were shipped by the thousand to the garrisons in Barbados and Jamaica, or that many hundreds of Irishmen ended their days in slavery in this island, leaving their descendants to eke out a miserable low-lived existence, not fit to work and, as a recent writer on Barbados has put it, "not ashamed to beg!"

The memory of these things is lost in England, it is even lost in Barbados, where the opprobrious nickname given by the Ulster settlers to the kilted natives of the country, sticks to their descendants still, although it has lost all meaning, and no Barbadian knows why he calls another or is styled himself a "Red-leg;" a curious instance of the persistence of a name notwithstanding the loss of its signification! It is said in Ireland that the cry of Cromwell's troopers when "harrying the Irishry" was, "To Hell with them, or to Connaught," and I suppose, having fairly filled the latter province, and, pious troopers that they were, not being familiar with the route to the other locality, they determined to send them to next hottest place they knew

of, and so shipped them between decks to Barbados! These things were unknown in England or are forgotten, as I have said, but the friends of the sufferers have longer memories, and it need not cause us much surprise if the bitterest invocation an Irish peasant can call down on the head of an enemy to-day is embodied in "The curse o' Crummel on ye!"

Cromwell did too much in his "pacification of Ireland," or he did too little! He might have exterminated the Irish, a process of which he only made a beginning, or he might have treated them as misled and erring citizens: he did neither, and the result of such action as he took is, that among these people a heritage of hate descends from generation to generation upon the very name of "Sassenach" or Saxon, the equivalent in Irish for Protestant, as came about naturally enough, for Cromwell's soldier-settlers were to a man the bitter opponents and despisers of the religion of the people among whom they came. The vast majority of the population of Barbados at the present day is black or coloured, the "colour" shading off through the sickly yellow to the copper colour, and finally to Nubian blackness.

The copper-coloured folk, or, as they are called here, the "red people," have the advantage over the pure negro in point of good looks, if, indeed, it is allowable to use the expression "good looks" at all in this connection. These people have often, however, stalwart and stately figures, and while their faces preserve the roundness of youth they are not unpleasing; but men and women, especially the latter, age very quickly; their teeth drop out or turn to unsightly tusks, so that a fairly good-looking coloured woman of thirty years is hard to find, and a handsome negro or negress would be a veritable black swan!

There is no doubt that the comparatively great and sustained prosperity of Barbados since the emancipation of the slaves is owing to the density of the black and coloured population, and that, again, is plainly due, in great measure, to the healthiness of the climate, which, as will be seen, cheapens labour not only by fostering the growth of able "hands," but by retaining the labourers here notwithstanding the higher wages paid in neighbouring islands and in other places.

In Jamaica and other West Indian islands, where on emancipation, the newly ransomed

slave could "squat" on unappropriated yet fertile land, he did so ; and preferring the unlimited enjoyment of his ease to any dignity he saw associated with labour, and strongly suspecting that the West Indies had not been included in the primal curse, and fairly certain that without any sweat of his brow he could eat things to him sweeter than bread—yams and plantains—he struck work, and contented himself with doing no more than the very little that was necessary to support life and buy himself a coloured cotton neckerchief. Thus great tracts of fertile land were allowed to go out of cultivation, every plantation permitted to run to waste only increasing the area open to the squatter, who, indeed, naturally preferred to settle upon land that had been lately tilled, and where fruit-trees were already flourishing, rather than to make his own Eden on fresh and hitherto uncultivated soil.

There was thus action and reaction, and in this way the results of emancipation were much more disastrous than in Barbados, where there was not an inch of waste soil on which to squat, and where the law, "if any man will not work, neither shall he eat"—always pro-

vided you can stop or seriously check his thieving—holds good as much as on a Sussex farm!

Perhaps the reader is inclined to ask, "Why, if the negro is so invincibly lazy, did not the Barbadian black man emigrate to one of the other islands where rich land lay waste, and, pitching his hut under the first bread-fruit tree, call no man 'master'?"

But the truth is, the negro is not invincibly lazy; he is only very lazy. He prefers a little work with good health to no work with liability to those frequent attacks of "fever and ague," and similar ailments, which are among the least of the ills he has good reason to dread when he turns his back upon Barbados, so he resolutely turns away from placards on dead walls offering him high wages in Guiana or Trinidad, and as much as from one dollar to three dollars a day in Panama, and chooses to remain lord of himself here, where he will work for three or four days a week for from one shilling to one shilling and threepence a day. The fine physique of the Barbadian negro makes him a valuable labourer when he is willing to work, but the advantages of climate, which have made him

what he is, are too seductive to be counter-balanced by any inducements that employers in other places can offer.

In Barbados itself, when employed by the day, the negro will do as little as he can, not, perhaps, differing very much in this from his European fellow; but when working "by the job"—which he much prefers—no English navvy could work harder. The negro, indeed, will compensate himself for such a spell by taking his ease for days afterwards, for "why should he work," he asks, "when he need not?" I never knew men work harder while they are at it than the porters and labourers of the port of Bridgetown.

Their occupation consists chiefly in dragging, on huge hand-carts, the hogsheads of sugar from the various stores to the "careenage," and shipping them on board lighters for transport to the vessels which lie outside in the bay.

Four or five men at most will take charge of a hogshead weighing about a ton—that is when the road is in good condition; but when it has just had rough, sharp-cornered, broken stones loosely scattered upon it, to a depth perhaps of six inches, the weight of the load

causes the wheels to sink deep, the loose stones roll under the, I think invariably, *bare* feet of the labourers, and altogether it is a painful sight to see these creatures swarming round a hogshead of sugar like ants about a large grain of wheat, and with similar perseverance, if with a good deal more noise than these latter workers, push and drag till they get the sugar to its destination. It may be remarked here, in passing, that Barbadians are strangely behind the times in the matter of road repairing.

They pile on loose stones, but never roll them in, leaving them to be gradually beaten into a roadway by the hoofs of the horses and wheels of carriages, at cost of much pain to the animals and ultimate loss to the owners, who might reasonably insist that the parochial authorities, to whom the care of the roads is committed, should in a better manner *mend their ways*!

When the extraordinary cheapness of living, and especially of such living as satisfies the average negro, in Barbados is considered, it will be seen that three or four days' work in a week, supplemented of course by any chance of appropriating his neighbour's

fowls or sugar-cane that may come in his way, is quite sufficient to enable the labourer to support himself in comfort, his concubine generally providing by her own earnings for the maintenance of herself and such of her children as may not have died of neglect, or have been got rid of in an even more questionable manner. On the whole, as far as my experience goes, the Barbadian negro does not improve on closer acquaintance, and a year's residence in the island will go far to evaporate any enthusiasm for the "brotherhood of man" aroused by speeches or literature of the type known as "Exeter Hall!" For notwithstanding some remarkable exceptions, the general verdict passed upon the negro as he appears in this island must be, that he is a creature of a low type of humanity, whether his present condition be one of arrested development or of retrogression from a higher state, nobler faculties having, through the force of the circumstances surrounding his forefathers in the dim and distant past, been extirpated by disuse!

But I know of no subject on which more conflicting statements are likely to be made than on the capacity and conduct of the

negro ; the impressions made on different people will be so different, the experience of one person will differ so much from that of another, and one will, in the very same circumstances, see so much more, and so much more clearly than another. To one observer the black will be the incarnation of brutal lawlessness, because he has learned by bitter experience that if a negro driver finds himself, as is most likely, with a heavier wheel to his dray than that of your carriage, he will ruthlessly drive into you. (I shall never forget my own dismay and the shock my preconceived notions as to the character and condition of the Barbadian negro received when, soon after first landing, a pronounced negrophile, in the island, a black man drove a huge "estate-truck" into my buggy, and I found myself in a second sitting in the roadway in the midst of a heap of twisted iron and splintered wood, the ruins of my little carriage ; while Quashee, descending from his perch, made a pretence of examining his enormous wheel, remarking the while with altogether superfluous strength of asseveration that he would "law me if I is mash up he truck !") But another who has

been struck with the orderly conduct of the vast crowd that attends the Barbados races will be willing to assert that the blacks are the most peaceable and law-abiding people he has ever known!

Certainly, great contrasts on points of conduct do exist, and the bearing of the crowd on "race-days" would be highly creditable to any people. There is no rioting, no drunkenness, no violence or blackguardism of any sort. The race-days are pleasuring days, pure and simple, and the desire of every one seems to be to get all the fun he can in a quiet and orderly way, and as it never takes much to arouse the enthusiasm of the negro (he grows as excited about a "kid race" as an Englishman about the Derby), the tumult of his feelings when he sees the well-known "favourites" of the West Indian Turf straining for the victory, may be better imagined than described. There is at any time very little organized ruffianism in Barbados.

That what we should be justified in calling ruffianism exists there is no doubt, but the foes of order do not seem to have discovered that unity is strength, and it is

but rarely, if ever, that concerted action is taken.

A case of the "robbery with violence" of a respectable person would be a wonder for many more than nine days here, and if two such cases occurred within five years we should believe the revolution was upon us.

If on a race-day a riot should occur or a showman's booth be wrecked or plundered, it will be found that Englishmen are at the bottom of the mischief—that, in fact, it is the work of the European soldiers of the garrison!

Again, one person will leave the island with a confused idea that he has not been in the West but in the East, and that Barbados lies on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho, as he has certainly fallen among most unconscionable thieves, while another will have been cheated with such dexterity that he does not feel himself robbed at all, and on going away will not only reward his servants for their honesty, but will give them certificates and recommendations, which it would be useless for them to present to old residents, as the latter would only think the bearers more than usually clever, and be only likely to keep them at arm's length.

At the same time surprising instances of honesty and faithful service amid what must be to these people great temptations do exist. That a case of honesty is "surprising" may be taken as a proof that as a rule it is not to be found. I am personally acquainted with a man of coal-black hue and utterly ignorant—I mean unlettered—who is trusted as an every-day matter to go to other West India islands and make purchases for his employer, paying cash to the amount of a thousand pounds a trip! It is understood by those from whom he buys that he is cheating his master as a matter of course, and they are careful always to give him two receipted bills, one for the amount really paid, and another for a larger amount, which he is supposed to present to his employers. To attempt to undeceive these clients of his would be quite useless on his part, and might possibly do harm, as they would probably think him an extra deep rogue who was endeavouring to get some advantage over them.

Instances like this puzzle one and make him chary of using sweeping and general denunciations of the whole race as liars and thieves

above all others, yet I am compelled to believe of the race, taken as a whole, that the negro is what from the shape of his head, facial angle, and contour and expression of his features, he might be supposed to be, a creature mentally and morally inferior to the Caucasian. There are exceptions on both sides ; I have met with able-bodied agricultural labourers in England, and especially in the south-western and north-western corners of Ireland, in whose faces there was but very little indeed of intellectual fire, and in whom the man appeared to be sunk in the mere animal ; but I am not speaking of the exceptions, but of the rule.

There are black men in Barbados who are upright and capable citizens—there are some who are gentlemen of culture ; but to hold up such as fair samples of the race is much the same as if one were to take an Albino as an example of the appearance of an ordinary Englishman. The intellectual growth of children is perhaps the best guide as to the *modus operandi* of Nature in the intellectual development of races of men. The savage, or if that word seem too hard, the “child of nature,” is in much the same posi-

tion with regard to the intellectual power of the average civilized man as a child is. The negro remains a grown-up child as regards the higher powers and faculties of the human race. This is strikingly exemplified in the experience of those who, like myself, have been much engaged in the teaching of negro children. The little negroes, up to the age of say twelve years, seem quite as sharp-witted as the children of Europeans, and indeed are often precocious, although there is generally an apparent overgrowth of the tongue, which seems too big for the mouth, and renders the enunciation thick and "wobbling." But when the years of puberty are approached a change comes over the child. It is as if a potent voice had said, "Thus far and no farther." The intellect and reasoning power seem suddenly arrested; the lower faculties and animal nature receive an impetus, and the clever child too often settles down into the dull and gross adult.

CHAPTER IX.

SOCIOLOGY (*continued*).

The divorce of morality from religion among the black people—Religious profession loud—Scriptural knowledge—Specimens of negro exegesis—Case of unrewarded merit in a religious servant—Too great and too speedy a result expected from evangelization of negroes—Religion of Barbadian blacks a hybrid thing—Fatalism of the negro—"De will ob God"—Reports of missionary societies not always trustworthy—Result at present of evangelization among the peasantry of Barbados very poor—Results of the work of the Church and the sects in England not satisfactory either—The poverty (?) of the poor—Little suffering from such poverty as exists—Imprudence and want of thrift in the mass of the people—Some points of similarity between the negro and the people of the wilder districts of Ireland—Marriage a neglected institution—Instances of "Handy Andyism" among the negroes.

HOWEVER shocking or impossible it may seem to those of us who believe in the

civilizing power of our religion over even degraded races, I am afraid, if the truth is to be told, it must be confessed that the Barbadian negro has effected a strange and unusual divorce between those things Christianity is thought to have bound indissolubly together, namely, religion and morality. I am using the word "morality" in its widest sense. The people are certainly religious after their manner; it is a curious manner! They profess a great deal, many of them are regular church-goers, and one of their chief amusements seems to consist in singing hymns. They have quick ears and pick up a tune readily, and will sit in groups about their huts on Sunday afternoons and make the whole neighbourhood resound with their favourites from "Hymns Ancient and Modern," and from Sankey's collection. They have ideas of their own, too, as to the "fitness of things," and you will never hear the tones of the much-loved banjo at these Sunday concerts, perhaps because that instrument having very probably assisted at a very different musical entertainment only the night before, is not considered worthy of such honour.

Owing to the labours of the clergy and to the fact that the Bible is much read and the Church Catechism taught in the great majority of the public primary schools, the people have in many cases a good knowledge of the Scripture text, which, however, they often take the liberty of interpreting according to their own notions, as in the case of the woman who a short time ago argued that in the beginning "the people was born blind, jus like de kittens," and quoting from Genesis, "and the eyes of them both were opened, &c.," triumphantly asked "how dere eyes is opened if deh isn't shut before?" Or, again, that of the black soldier, a native of Africa, who was supposed to be thoroughly Christianized, but who evidently was allowing his mind to travel in unorthodox grooves—who said to the military chaplain that "dat woman is make de great mistake," and when the puzzled clergyman asked "how?" replied with manifest trust in the soundness of his logic, "Why, dat she isn't eat de oder apple first and lib for eber!"

Having first secured her lease of life, he thought she might then have been in an independent position and pleased herself as

to her choice of fruit. The scriptural knowledge, however, and the religionism of the negro, exercise as a rule not the slightest influence upon his life and conduct. In fact, I am not sure but that the louder his professions, and the more resonant his hymn-singing, the more he is to be distrusted. I once was privileged to employ an old servant who was unusually pious, but I found she looked upon me and my property as a kind of providential provision for her respectable and religious old age.

This old lady was so religious that she did all her roguery to a hymn tune ; she took the loose money off my dressing-table to "Hold the Fort," and marched away with my eatables to the strains of "Onward, Christian Soldiers," until I got to dread the sound of a hymn altogether, and when I heard one used to say, "There now ! there's something else made away with !"

When finally taken, *flagrante delicto*, in a grosser piece of villainy than ordinary, and summarily discharged, for a few moments she looked taken aback ; but a happy thought must have struck her, for she presently turned to me with a smile of resignation and said,

“The Holy Book say de Lord is not desert His own, and He’s sure to open another door for me!” With this pious sentiment she passed out of my life! It is difficult to tell how much of conscious hypocrisy there is among these people, or to what extent they themselves believe in the reality of their professions, but to me it seems vain to expect that Christianity should escape deterioration in the alembic of the moral and intellectual condition of people of the mental capacity of the average negro. The Divine is not perhaps the same to any two of us, that is, our ideas of God differ as we differ ourselves. When a people are “base, bloody, and brutal” —base, bloody, and brutal will be their gods; when a people are gentle, kindly affectioned, and inclined to arts of peace, their ideas of Deity are, too, an exalted purified reflex of their own nature. In the case of these poor people of whom I speak, the Christian religion was not developed among them gradually, but, so to speak, thrust upon them from the outside. Its truths were foreign to their inherited tendencies: surely we should not expect too much at once, but must be content to wait, first for the blade, after-

wards the ear, and, not in a day, the full corn in the ear! Although among the mass of the people Christianity has borne but little fruit apparently worth gathering as yet, even now there are black men and women in Barbados leading pure and innocent lives, and the leaven is doing its work. But it seems clear that at first as the lower race fails to be raised, insomuch the religion of the higher race thrust upon them will be degraded, and it should not surprise us if the religion of the mass of the Barbadian blacks seem little better than a thin layer of Christianity over a fundamental basis of their ancient fetichism. The people use the sacred names of the Christian religion freely, yet they are in most cases but names as far as any influence on their life goes.

The negroes are fatalists too: they seem to consider themselves as passive instruments in the hand of destiny, or as they say in the religious slang of which they are so fond, "De will ob God must be!"

This phrase is invariably used in Barbados as the excuse for every serious offence against the civil law or morality. In England the culprit will, in imitation of our first parents,

endeavour to put the blame of his misdeeds upon the shoulders of the lost archangel, and excuse himself by saying, "The devil tempted me." The Barbadian goes to the fountain-head at once; to him the devil is quite a secondary person and of small importance. The omnipotence of God fills all his mind, and the invariable excuse with him is, "De will ob God must be!" And this excuse seems to possess great validity among the people: they really do seem to think that having said that, they have said everything that is necessary. Your cook, for instance, whether her offence be that of "conveying" your provisions, or unexpectedly and in a perfectly unauthorized and irregular manner, increasing the number of her family, will consider that she has put the matter beyond the reach of further argument, and freed herself from all blame, when she has explained to you, with the greatest gravity, that "it was de will ob God!" If, after what I have said above, it be still urged that this is a poor result of the evangelizing efforts of the Church, when she had, too, "all the appliances and means to boot" of establishment and endowment, it may be confessed that it is a poor result!

The people have been made but indifferent Christians ; their religion is but a hybrid offspring of Christianity and Fetichism. And if the further question arises, What, if the result where the Church had many circumstances in her favour be so poor, what can be expected from missionary labours in purely heathen countries ? I answer that, in both cases, we expect too much ; we look for too early a harvest. The various missionary societies, anxious to prove that great and immediate results were being produced, have in the past, it is to be feared, too highly coloured their reports. The missionaries themselves who write the reports of their own doings are especially the younger and more enthusiastic ones, in a sense willing to yield to the pleasing illusion that their labours are fruitful beyond hope, and, at least in some cases, statements are made which are little less than fraudulent efforts to extract money from subscribers. In this way people at home have been taught to expect too much, they do not devote much thought to the question, and are pleased to hear that, in return for their subscriptions, so good a balance-sheet can be shown. They applaud

the returned missionary who tells them stories of his "dear little black scholars," whom they clothe with all the merits of saints, but who are, in all probability, a lot of little ragamuffins, little better or worse than their "unconverted" neighbours, and as bare of virtue as they are of clothes. The fact is that the reports of missionary societies on the success of their own work are not always completely trustworthy, but must at times be taken *cum grano salis*.

There are sects, too, which are special offenders in this way, and do not seem to care who may know their statements are exaggerated, so long as the subscriptions pour in.

Not long ago, I read in the missionary report of one of the sects a statement of the wonderful work that was being done among the poor people of the "Bay Road" here. I forget now how many hundreds of the poor blacks had found peace, and how many more were anxious inquirers and would probably be, after a sermon or two more,—but what need to repeat the conventional cant which has served its purpose when the coin rattles into the collecting-box? The writer had known the Bay Road intimately for years, and

can say that these hundreds of "awakened" negroes themselves know nothing of the great things which have been done for them ! If an utterly misleading report is made when it is not unlikely that the report may fall into the hands of some one acquainted with the locality, what is likely to be the character of those sent in from remote mission-stations, say among the heathen tribes of Africa ?

It must not be forgotten that these peoples among whom missionaries now labour are not early English, or Gauls, or Germans ; they are of a lower type, and their teaching must be "line upon line and precept upon precept, here a little and there a little," and that the harvest will not spring up at the heels of the sower.

The only fact to be relied on with reference to this question in Barbados is that, according to present ideas, the result of evangelization among the masses here is deplorably poor. But what then ! are there no "lapsed masses" in Christian England itself, no widespread infidelity, no hypocrisy, or ignorance, or vice under the shadow of cathedral walls ? When it is considered that only within the last sixty years has a black man been permitted to enter

within the walls of a church at all, and when the inherited instincts of generations of degradation are taken into account ; when we reflect, too, upon the presence of Spiritualism, Theosophy, Salvation Armyism, and other travesties of Christianity in staid old England, with its ancient Catholic Church, we shall perhaps be less astonished to find that the religion of the poor Barbadian negro is but a mongrel and ineffective thing.

The Church seems, after all, the one rampart in Barbados between the negro and the original savagery out of which he has but comparatively recently been brought, and to which, I believe, without the influence of the Church and the ministrations of the clergy, he would soon return.

To a stranger who takes the trouble to go among the people in the country districts, and especially in certain parts of "Scotland," the poverty of the majority will probably seem appalling ; and yet it is questionable if the term "poverty" can be fitly applied to their condition. When one visits a savage island in the Pacific, and finds the property of a native consists chiefly of a bamboo hut, a necklace of sharks' teeth, a few glass beads,

and a piece of matting, he does not conclude that his condition is one of extreme poverty! The "native" is living in antediluvian simplicity, if you will, but he has all that he wants, and feels—you may be sure—no distress because an assortment of calabashes serves him instead of Dresden china. So it is with the Barbadian black. His wants are small, and if his wealth is not much more than that of Adam and Eve in Paradise, his distress at its absence is not much greater either. His poverty may be extreme, if one will have the word, but of suffering there is little or none. A weather-proof house is not a necessity; clothing is not; fuel, except to a very limited amount, is not; animal food is not; and so the average negro is content to live, if fairly full to-day, careless of to-morrow, and, for the most part, pressed but by the want of the simplest kind of food, a little rice and salt fish, to do any work whatever.

It is idle to expect that a people of such physical conformation, such traditions, and such circumstances as the West Indian negroes should press forward very eagerly in the race for wealth or education; they are too contented as they are, and have

but little inducement to take any extra trouble.

Care for the future there is—as might be expected—little or none. Sixpence in the present is more valuable to the average black man than five shillings a month hence, and thus he is often a prey to the money-lender. He carries to an extreme the enterprise-destroying proverb, “A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush,” and he is unwilling to deprive himself of the most trivial pleasure of to-day in order to secure an advantage, no matter how great, to-morrow! There is, too, a certain “Jack is as good as his master” air about him, which is very amusing, when it is not vexatious; it looks, in fact, as if he had not yet got used to feeling himself his own property, and is anxious to impress upon you the fact that before the law he is as good a man as you are.

If this little idiosyncrasy is yielded to, and he is addressed in a friendly and not in a hectoring tone, he will be found a civil and obliging fellow, and will put himself considerably out of his way to do you any little service you may require. Self-conscious he is, and self-assertive, perhaps; but taken at

his own valuation, and spoken to as he considers a free citizen who owes you nothing should be, he is far from being the unmannerly brute he is so often represented.

Strange as it may seem, there are many points of similarity between the characteristics of the negro and the Irish peasant of the remoter districts of the south and west.

The people of these districts have been swept upon their barren and rugged heights and into their morasses by successive waves of invading and stronger tribes; and just as the drift upon the sea-shore marks the height to which the tide has risen, so, among the bleak hills and dismal bogs of the south and west of Ireland, the characteristics of the people will show to the thoughtful observer how far the tides of invasion have flowed, and will be seen to have many points of similarity with those of the black and coloured population of Barbados.

The European is, I believe, in brain-power ahead, but there are types of face and character in these districts of Ireland, and also among remote agricultural places in England, which should modify those too-sweeping generalizations we often hear. Confining

the comparison of the blacks with the Irish of such places as I have mentioned, and with whom I am most familiar, there is not only their common fondness for music of a rude sort (any one who has ever heard an Irish country fiddler, and been within fifty yards of the hut in which a "Dignity Ball" was being given in Barbados, will know what I mean) and dancing, there is the habit of gesticulation, the loud, though generally harmless, wrangling carried on with a multiplicity of terrific threats full of sound and fury, but signifying nothing, and an absence of the spirit of truthfulness, for which I fear my countrymen are almost as notorious as the negro. There is, too, a carelessness for to-morrow and improvidence strongly marked in both races, a proneness to superstition, and, perhaps above all, a jollity and drollery that are almost irrepressible, that, combined with a striking resemblance of facial outline, make the peasant of West Cork or Mayo and the negro seem much closer akin than the colour of their cuticles will permit us to believe.

If the negro will implore the Divine blessing on the plans he has laid for robbing a sweet-potato patch or a hen-roost, as he will do, and

if his presence in church or even at "communion" is not always to be taken as a guarantee of rectitude of life or even of abstinence from the grosser forms of immorality, the Irishman will sometimes religiously attend mass immediately before committing a crime at which the hearer's ears tingle!

The truth is, perhaps, that the two peoples have those characteristics in common which might be supposed to exist among races, however differently descended, who were passing through almost similar stages of progress or of retrogression. On many points they differ, and on one they are sundered by the whole sky. The Irish peasant is chaste, and his womankind remarkably pure-minded, while the negro woman scarce seems able to grasp the idea of chastity. I do not know how far slavery in the past, and insufficient house accommodation in the present, may be accountable for this, but I am inclined to believe that, as of the naughty dogs in Dr. Watts' hymn, who "delight to bark and bite," it may be said in this matter of the full-blooded negro race, "it is their nature to!"

Marriage, except as affording an opportunity for display, and for taking a drive in a carriage hired from a livery stable, is a somewhat neglected institution, and seems to be in most cases but an after-thought.

Concubinage, the tie to be dependent on the good behaviour of either party, is found much more convenient and advantageous, especially for the woman, who very often refuses to marry the man with whom she cohabits. The negro not infrequently makes but an indifferent husband, and, when his wife is once firmly bound to him, is apt to treat her as his slave.

Now, the concubine can leave her mate at any time she is dissatisfied with his conduct, and as she is generally a very valuable "provider," she is treated with a certain amount of deference and respect, of which she has only too much reason to fear she would be promptly deprived if she were irrevocably bound to a husband. It is not therefore from impure motives, but simply from prudential ones that she chooses liberty rather than the acknowledged respectability with the slavery of the marriage tie. At the same time, it must be confessed, she will change

her companion, especially while she is young, with as little compunction as an English lady will change her gloves.

The drollery of the negro seems more unintentional than Paddy's! The Irishman makes his joke with his eyes open and with all his heart; but the negro, while he is saying something grotesque in its absurdity, has no intention of raising a laugh, and most likely will be indignant if you find cause for merriment in his speech or action. For all that, the "Handy Andy" of Irish romance has many a counterpart here, and many stories could be told of Sambo's sayings and doings, on hearing which the listener instinctively would say, "How Irish!"

One or two instances that have come within my personal experience will explain what I mean. A short time since I ordered my coachman to drive to a certain house by the shortest way, and as I was pressed for time in returning also, he was again told to take the shortest cut.

I soon found, however, that we were returning by quite a different route from that by which we had come; I remonstrated at

this, when Jehu, with the most serious face, asked me "if I had not told him to come back by the shortest road?" I at once answered, "Yes! but you came by the shortest road, and now you are returning by a different one." A look of intense amusement spread over his shining ebony face as he replied, "Yah, sir; dat de low-side road, but dis de up-side road; dat de shortest way here, but dis the shortest way back!" He meant it seriously, too, and the look of supercilious contempt which took the place of his amused grin, when I laughingly tried to explain that he had perpetrated a genuine "bull" as well as I could have done myself, was something to be seen. "Low-side" and "up-side," by the way, have no reference in negro argot to the hilliness of the roads, and both those in question were equally level.

Another instance will show still better how futile it is to depend upon the manifestation of any common sense among these folk.

Once, when "apple-pie" formed part of the *menu* at dinner, the dish was found to be too moist, and the mistress of the house spoke to the cook, a coloured woman, and

gave such instructions as she supposed would ensure an improvement when next an apple-pie formed part of the dinner. Well, the day came round, and a dish was put upon the table, the contents of which it would have required considerable ingenuity to guess from its external appearance. It consisted, apparently, of a mixture of grease, and flour, and water. The cook was called in and asked for an explanation, when the following dialogue ensued:—

Cook: "See me here, mistress!"

Mistress: "What is the meaning of this, or what do you call this dish you have sent up?"

Cook (Smoothing down her apron as if it were her righteous indignation): "Dat de apple-pie, mistress."

Mistress: "But it is a mess of flour and water!"

Cook: "Why, mistress, you isn't tell me to put in water enough to cover the apples?"

Mistress: "I told you to put water enough to just cover the apples, but—"

Cook (Interrupting quickly): "Well, mistress, an' dat just what I's do; but de

more I's trow in the water, de more de apples is come to de top ! ”

The woman had persevered in “ trowin' in de water ” till, failing to cover the incorrigible apples, she had quite filled the dish. She had then put on the pastry, which, of course, was boiled into the water, with the result I have stated above. But cookie insists to this day that, “ De mistress, shu ! she too foolish for true, to tell she to cover up de apples when de apples isn't sink ! ”

Many stories could indeed be told showing a curious affinity of disposition between the two peoples, and proving, if they prove nothing else, that Quashee, Sambo, and Co. are the only licensed bull-makers and original Patricks of the torrid zone. But enough has been said to show that a visitor with tastes in that direction might derive much amusement and a fund of information as to the manners, superstitions, modes of thought, and idiosyncrasies of primitive people by spending some time in Barbados, while, if I have not made it clear that the island forms the most salubrious and genial winter resort, especially for those suffering from pulmonary

affections, or from debility arising from old age or other causes, then I must stand convicted of making but poor use of excellent materials.

CHAPTER X.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Places of worship—Roman Catholic Chapel—Roman Catholic population insignificant in point of numbers—Methodists more successful—The Moravians distinguished for their efforts to educate the negroes—Presbyterianism almost unknown—The “Presbyterian-Methodist” chaplain—The Jews—Parish church of St. Michael—The congregation—St. Mary’s—St. Leonard’s—St. Paul’s—Evangelicals have not much success with negroes—St. Matthias’—St. Joseph’s—Religion necessary to social order in Barbados—The Public Library—Schools—Primary education—Queen’s College—The Lodge—Harrison College—Codrington College—Communication with England, &c.—The Royal Mail, the Direct Line, &c., &c.—Outfit necessary on coming to Barbados—Rent and wages—Prices—Hotels—The Hastings Hotel—Barbadian enterprise chiefly directed to the production of sugar—The “Nile”—Beechmount Hotel (Bathsheba).

THE great bulk of the population belonging to the Anglican branch of the Catholic

Church, the ecclesiastical buildings of this body greatly exceed in number, and much more in seating capacity, those of the other denominations put together.

There is but one Roman Catholic chapel in the island; it is situated about half a mile from Bridgetown, opposite the General Hospital, and close to Bay Road, leading from Bridgetown to Hastings and Worthing. The chapel is a handsome little structure, and near by, within the grounds, and separated from the burial-ground but by a carriage-drive, is the residence of the mission priest in charge. The congregation is smaller than might be expected, for one would suppose that the ritual of the Church of Rome, the pictured walls, and the altar and its surroundings would prove irresistible attractions for the negro mind; but perhaps the staid decorum and solemnity of the services is burdensome to those people, who like to be able to give vent to their excited feelings in impromptu groanings, amens, and glory hallelujahs, and are pleased to imagine they can hear when "Gabriel blow he trumpet in the morning."

Among the Methodists there is more scope

for the display of individual feeling than in either the Roman or the Anglican Church; but though Methodism is worked here in a thoroughly practical way, the results, as shown by the number and size of their congregations, are not great. The society possesses, however, several neat and commodious chapels, one in James Street, Bridgetown, one in the Bay Road, one near the Garrison on the Dalkeith Road, and others in the country districts; and several ministers of good reputation for their attainments and zeal are engaged in working what may still be called the "mission."

The "United Brethren" (Moravian) have long had an establishment in Barbados, but the work of this society seems to lie in some of the country districts, where, partly no doubt from their efforts for the promotion of primary education, they have proved valuable civilizers.

There is not a Presbyterian place of worship in the island, or a Presbyterian minister, and a Methodist minister acts as chaplain to the soldiers in the garrison who belong to that persuasion. When one remembers the differences of opinion between

the Methodist and Presbyterian bodies at home, and thinks how the "Westminster Confession" would stick in the throat of the "Methodist Conference," it seems strange to see after a signature, "Presbyterian and Methodist Chaplain;" but so long as everybody is pleased, and the hard cash is drawn from the pay-office, why should any one grumble?

There are very few Jews here now, but in times past that race must have been more numerous, as the Jewish Synagogue is a handsome building and intended to accommodate a congregation of three hundred.

The parish churches and chapels of the Anglican body are thickly scattered over the island, the clergy list for Barbados containing between forty and fifty names of those who are engaged in ministerial work in one way or another.

The parish church of St. Michael's parish, situated in Bridgetown, and a large but unhandsome structure, serves for a cathedral, and is usually called by that name; but there is no dean or capitular body, and the bishop of the diocese is in the same position towards

the rector of the church as he is to any other. The service in the "cathedral" is conducted on moderate lines, and is hearty. The Sunday evening service especially is so; the congregation then is chiefly composed of black and coloured people, who join in the responses and in the singing with all their soul. But a stranger's attention is pretty sure to be distracted during the service, unless great self-restraint be exercised, by the curious costumes and wonderful head-dresses of the women, who take the opportunity of displaying their whole wealth in sham jewellery, and a style of apparel frequently combining, if not harmoniously, all the tints of the rainbow. The head-dresses differ in style and material in quite a remarkable manner. An elderly black "lady" will sit proudly under a "Panama" as large as an umbrella, while the young woman beside her, making up in height for what she has lost in breadth, supports with conscious dignity a pile of straw-work, feathers, and flowers, that nothing but long practice in carrying burdens on the head could have enabled her to balance so securely. Almost every woman will have her gloves and a large fan, the latter kept in constant and rapid

motion. But the congregation is as devout as one usually is in England, where a pretty bonnet is not without its value, it is to be feared, even in church, and the service is solemnly and at the same time warmly rendered. St. Mary's Chapel, also in Bridgetown, and St. Leonard's, are chapels-of-ease in the same parish. In St. Mary's the service is bald, the pew-holders being of a Protestant turn of mind, though they are being taught, and no doubt will improve in time. St. Leonard's is the "St. Alban's" of Barbados. The service is choral, and the church building is itself handsome and tastefully decorated, the various fittings, stained glass windows, &c., having been for the most part presented by members of the congregation. The service at eleven o'clock a.m. on Sundays is well attended, and it is pleasant to see so many of the "hard-headed" business men and leading merchants of Barbados among the devout and reverent congregation. The services of two laymen, duly licensed by the bishop, are availed of as readers and general assistants to the curate in charge.

The chapel of "St. Paul" and that named from St. Ambrose are also in the

neighbourhood of Bridgetown, and in the St. Michael's parish. In both the style of service and tone of the teaching are severely Protestant, and although their clergymen are both good and zealous men, they seem to be working against wind and tide. . . . Of all schools of thought or parties in the Christian Church, the Evangelical Church of England is the least adapted for making way among such a population as that of Barbados. Of course I am speaking of the blacks. The Evangelicals have nothing to offer them which cannot be had better elsewhere. The doctrines they teach are those of the Methodists, but the ritual of the Church of England refuses the liberty which Methodism gives, and the negro cannot see why, everything else being equal, he should not "go to a church" where he can interject as many "glories," "praise de Lords," and "hallelujahs" as he pleases, and not be limited to the safety-valve of stated and regular responses and amens.

There is another chapel in the village of Hastings, St. Matthias', but as the curate in charge has been for sometime absent through illness, and is now, it is said, about to resign

and to be replaced by another clergyman, no reliable information can be given as to the tone of the services. One thing, however, may be confidently looked for: there will be an earnest priest in charge, and the church will be open for Divine service as frequently as the others I have mentioned. Those visitors who wish to avail themselves of full church privileges can easily do so in Barbados, except, indeed, when they are staying at Bathsheba, from which it is very difficult to reach a church. The parish church (St. Joseph's) is the nearest, but the road to it is very steep, and although the building itself is handsome and the service good, people staying at Bathsheba do not as a rule think of attending there. It must be understood that although in a sense the Anglican may be said to be the established Church in Barbados, yet, as the principle of concurrent endowment is acknowledged, and any denomination can establish a claim on the revenue of the island for an amount, greater or less, according to the number of its adherents, there is no jealousy, or very little, felt against it. There is a decided impression here that religion is, among this teeming, ignorant, and

impulsive population, the chief bulwark of social order, and it is sincerely to be hoped that in time of great commercial depression, Barbadian legislators may not seek relief from taxation by withdrawing State support from all churches and sects alike. It seems to the writer that these must be supported—supported, if you like, as a sort of moral police, but supported at all risks, or terrible harm will come of it. And if these churches and sects are to be supported for the public good, and to prevent a calamitous relapse, it is better that all should bear the burden equally, as they do at present, than that the generous and patriotic should be fined, and the niggardly and selfish go “scot-free,” as would happen under “voluntaryism.”

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

When in a former chapter I spoke of the absence of handsome architecture in Bridgetown, I should have made an exception in favour of the public buildings, which stand in two blocks, forming one side of “Trafalgar Square.” These fine buildings, erected in

1874, are already being sheltered by the rapidly-growing trees which, within the last few years, have been planted in the enclosure between the blocks. They contain the Public Offices, viz. those of the Customs, Treasury, Savings Bank, Post Office, and others. The upper floor of the eastern pile is occupied chiefly by the Chambers of the Island Legislature, while the northern end of the lower story of the same building contains the Public Library, established by law in 1847, and removed to its present position in 1875. The library, supported solely by an annual grant of public money, is perfectly free and open to all, and is conducted in a manner reflecting credit upon those responsible for its management. It contains in all some 21,000 volumes; but as an excellent catalogue—in fact an alphabetical combination of three catalogues, that is, of authors, books, and subjects—has been compiled by the present librarian, the Rev. J. E. S. Walcott, and as this gentleman has also introduced the use of a very valuable “indicator,” by which an intending borrower can see for himself at a glance whether any book is “in,” or out on loan, there is no delay or difficulty what-

ever in the way of the fullest use being made of the institution.

Speaking from personal experience, the writer can testify to the great value and excellent working of the library. The visitor, whatever his rank may be, is sure of prompt and courteous attention from those in charge. It is, however, a matter for serious regret that there is no reading-room attached to the library, and kept open till nine o'clock p.m. at least on certain evenings of the week.

The young business men of Bridgetown have no place of resort in the evenings, and it would be a priceless boon to this valuable and deserving class if opportunity were thus given them of spending their evenings in the safest company—that of good books. It is not beyond the bounds of hope that some philanthropic member of the Legislature may take steps in this direction, and so largely increase the utility of the institution at a very small additional expense.

The yearly grant in support of the library amounts to 625*l.*, of which sum 300*l.* are devoted to the purchase of books and periodicals, and repairs of those injured; the

remainder, 325*l.*, being expended in salaries, wages, and incidental expenses.

SCHOOLS.

Barbados is well supplied with scholastic institutions. A sum of 15,000*l.* is set apart from the public revenue and placed at the disposal of the Education Board, under certain fixed regulations, for the general purposes of education. It is to be regretted that so great a proportion of this sum should be thrown away on the primary so-called education.

The primary school-teachers are in many cases woefully ignorant, and even if they knew anything they have no power or skill in imparting information. The children learn very little, and what they do learn they learn by rote, and with about as much appreciation of the meaning of the words they use as moderately intelligent parrots. I confess, however, to having been once surprised at the intelligence and knowledge shown by a little girl, a pupil of a remote country school under the management of the Moravians.

The Barbadians have begun in the matter of primary education at the wrong end. They have done nothing towards procuring a supply of trained teachers, and till well-taught and well-trained teachers can be obtained, the money spent on what is called primary education is in great measure wasted. In the second-grade schools, and still more in the first-grade schools, the improvement is marked. There are two schools of the first grade for boys, Harrison's College and The Lodge, and one school of the first rank (Queen's College) for girls.

Queen's College is quite a new, though already a flourishing institution. It is located in suitable buildings within a quarter of a mile of Bridgetown. The head-mistress and her assistants are ladies possessing excellent qualifications and experience gained in good schools at home, and in their hands Queen's College is daily becoming more and more of a necessity.

The Lodge is an old foundation resuscitated. This school has not yet had time to gain distinction by the success of its pupils, either at the Universities or in the struggle for existence in the outer world; but it is

expected, from its progress hitherto, soon to take up a prominent position.

Harrison's College has been for some twelve years under its present head-master, who has thus had time to put his mark upon the higher education in the island. He has, indeed, done so in a remarkable manner. It may well seem a surprising thing to find on this coral-bank in the midst of the ocean, and under the tropical sun, a school from which boys go direct to compete successfully for the open scholarships of the most famous colleges in Oxford and Cambridge, and the names of old boys of which appear in the lists of "firsts."

Having had much experience in school work, and having for several years in succession been mathematical examiner of Harrison's College, the writer feels bound to state that he never knew a school in which the teaching was more thoroughly and effectually done.

It is true that the head-master is assisted by a staff of University men, but when the difficulties in the way, and the limited area from which pupils are drawn are considered, the success of the school does seem astonish-

ing. A "preparatory class" for boys of say nine years of age has been formed, and given into the sole charge of a University man of experience and skill in teaching, who devotes all his time to these little fellows.

It is thus, by beginning with the most thorough work and the best methods at the very outset, that the school has gained its present position; and there is little doubt that if the battle of Waterloo was won in the playing-fields at Eton, future wranglerships and "firsts" are now being won on the forms of this preparatory class.

There is probably no Barbadian institution of which the islanders have more reason to be proud than of Harrison's College.

The school, it may be added, stands in extensive grounds, and amid many fine trees. The Government Laboratory is located in a wing of the school buildings, and the "Island Professor of Chemistry," a gentleman of distinction in the scientific world, lectures certain classes of the pupils, and also a class of the girls from the Queen's College.

Another educational institution, Codrington's College, certainly deserves mention, but as the writer's purpose is to confine attention

chiefly to those matters of probable interest to visitors, and as the college does not receive juvenile pupils, it may be dismissed with little comment.

The buildings are handsome, and are very prettily situated in the parish of St. John and near the sea. In the college is a beautiful little chapel, which was much injured by the last hurricane, in 1831, and although restored, still bears the scars of its old wounds.

The drive to “Codrington’s” is generally considered indispensable for those who would see what is best worth seeing in Barbados ; and, except that the place is so distant from Bridgetown, I should not differ from the general consensus as to its advisability. But, however pretty the scenery there may be, it is a question if the time might not be better spent—at least if the visitor’s stay in the island is limited—in seeing places, the drive to which is not so long and tedious.

The college is affiliated to the University of Durham, and has been the *Alma Mater* of many of the clergy of Barbados and the other West India Islands.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION WITH ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

The steamers of the following lines call at Barbados, carrying passengers, and in most cases mails: The "Royal Mail Company," the "Direct Line," the "Harrison's Line," the "United States and Brazil Mail Steamship Company," the "West India and Pacific Steamship Company," the "Quebec Steamship Company," and the "Atlantic and West India Steamship Company."

The splendid vessels of the Royal Mail leave Southampton for Barbados (direct) on alternate Thursdays throughout the year, arriving at the latter place, after a passage of twelve and a half days, at 7 a.m. on the mornings of alternate Wednesdays.

As a great part of the voyage from England to Barbados is through seas wherein there is perpetual summer, it is not so surprising that great regularity as to date and hour of arrival should be preserved; and the result of folk having grown accustomed to hear, precisely at seven o'clock on "mail mornings," the gun announcing that the steamer has dropped her anchor, is, that if the vessel should by acci-

dent be ten minutes late, the Barbadians will believe their clocks must be fast. These steamers start on the return voyage from Barbados direct for Plymouth and Southampton on alternate Mondays.

The fares by the ships of the Royal Mail Company run from 30*l.* to 43*l.* for first-class saloon passengers, according to the cabin accommodation; and return tickets, available for twelve months, from 45*l.* to 65*l.* For fuller information as to routes, fares, &c., of this and other steamship companies, the reader is referred to the Appendices at the end of this book.

The steamers of the Direct or Scrutton's Line start from London about the tenth and thirtieth of each month, calling at Dartmouth for passengers who prefer to join the ship at that port, and mails, and make the passage to Barbados in about sixteen days. The single fare is 20*l.* and the return 35*l.* From Barbados these steamers proceed to Tobago, Trinidad, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, Montserrat, Nevis, and St. Kitts, and also to Martinique and Guadeloupe when the inducement offers. The London agents of this company are Messrs.

Scrutton, Sons, and Co., 9, Gracechurch Street ; and the agents in Barbados, Messrs. Louis, Son, and Co.

The Harrison Line of steamers run in conjunction with those of the West India and Pacific Company, starting from Liverpool every third Saturday, and making the voyage in about sixteen days. On arrival at Barbados they proceed to Trinidad, La Guayra, Puerto Cabello, Curaçoa, Savanilla, Carthagina, Colon, Limon, and Greytown, and thence to New Orleans, from which they return to Liverpool. The fare to Barbados from Liverpool is 25*l*. The brokers there are Messrs. Balman and Co., 18, Chapel Street ; and the agents in Barbados, Messrs. Louis, Son, and Co.

The steamers of the West India and Pacific Steamship Company leave Liverpool for Barbados, direct, every Saturday, making the passage in sixteen days, and due, therefore, in the latter place on every Monday. The fare to Barbados is 20*l*., which includes first-class railway fare to Liverpool from any part of England. The agents of the company in Barbados are Messrs. Da Costa and Co.

The United States and Brazil Mail Steam-

ship Company run a line of steamers from New York and Newport News to Brazil, calling at Barbados. These vessels make the voyage from Newport News to Barbados in seven and a half days. The single fare is \$60, or 12*l.* 10*s.*; and the return, \$100, or 20*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* The agents for the company in Barbados are Messrs. Da Costa and Co.

The Quebec Steamship Company send out two steamers a month from New York for Barbados and the West Indies. The fare by these steamers to Barbados is \$60 (12*l.* 10*s.*), and the return ticket costs twelve and a half per cent. less than double fare. Agents in Barbados, Messrs. F. A. Clairmonto and Co., who are also agents for the Atlantic and West India Steamship Company, whose vessels also call at Barbados.

Thus the island is in direct and rapid communication with London, Southampton, Plymouth, Dartmouth, Liverpool, New York, and Newport News, as well as with the other West India Islands, and the ports of South America and the Spanish Main; and there is further a considerable passenger business done by sailing vessels, not only between Barbados and New York, but between Barba-

dos and Bristol and London; many persons to whom time is not so valuable as money, and some who believe the long and yet comfortable voyage through our tropical seas beneficial to their health, preferring the latter mode of transit.

With reference to the outfit required by persons coming to Barbados from colder climates, it is only necessary to say that the ordinary apparel worn in the English summer time is most suitable. There are no such things in Barbados as winter or spring costumes; and should anything be forgotten by the traveller, there are many large "stores" from which his wants can be readily supplied, and at reasonable rates.

For ladies who play tennis and dance, a good stock of cotton washing dresses, and one or two handsome ball and dinner costumes are most required.

To those who may prefer keeping their own house to hotel life, the following information will be found useful.

Furnished or partially furnished houses are to be had in the neighbourhoods of Hastings, the Crane, and Bathsheba, at monthly rents varying from \$25 to \$60, that is, from

5*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* to 12*l.* 10*s.*, according to the size of the house and its situation. Unfurnished houses are let at from \$20 to \$40 a month, and furniture can be hired from “stores” in Bridgetown.

The wages of servants run from \$7 to \$10 a month without board—or “accommodation,” as they say themselves—for cooks, butlers, and coachmen, &c., a maidservant not getting more than from \$5 to \$7, say from a guinea to a guinea and a half.

A list of prices of articles of food, wines, &c., will be found in the Appendix (*vide* Table of Contents) which will not vary to any appreciable extent throughout the year, and which, it will be seen, compare favourably with those current in England:

HOTELS.

In addition to the old inns of the island, a large new hotel has been recently built, and will, it is hoped, be opened for business within a few months or weeks.

This hotel is situated at Hastings, two miles and a quarter from Bridgetown, and one mile from the Garrison. It stands within grounds

of several acres in extent, which will, in this country in which trees and plants grow so vigorously, quickly assume the appearance of an ornamental park.

The hotel is intended to accommodate three hundred guests; and as it is fitted and furnished in the newest style, the various rooms, too, being large and airy, and many of them facing the trade-wind or looking over the sea, it may be expected to be full at least during the six winter months.

The hotel is close to the terminus of the Hastings section of the tramway lines, and guests will therefore be within cheap and pleasant communication with the Garrison and Bridgetown. The building of such a hotel by a Barbadian merchant is looked upon here as a piece of tremendous daring, but it must be confessed of the Barbadians that among their latter-day virtues a spirit of enterprise has scarce a place, and in this they have remarkably fallen off from the spirit of their fathers, who with true old English pluck and energy crossed the sea and founded for themselves new settlements in this then remote and almost unknown island. Circumstances are no doubt re-

sponsible for some of the apathetic indifference which would seem to be growing upon the Barbadians. They have for so long a time been accustomed to associate every innovation or enterprise with the sugar cultivation or production that they now are inclined to look askance at any that are not immediately connected with their great industry. It is not too much to say that everything in Barbados, from the salary of the Governor to the pension of a policeman, is regulated by the price of sugar. Sugar is constantly in the minds of men here, and is the fertile theme of conversation in the Commercial Hall of Bridgetown, where merchants of Barbados most do congregate, and where the rise and fall of prices in the sugar market are watched more eagerly than the merchant skipper watches his barometer. There are few places in the world in which so much depends on the success or failure of one industry as in this island, so it is no great wonder if the telegrams of prices form the social barometer of the place, a fall or rise of one-fourth of a cent in the price of sugar per pound causing a corresponding fall or rise in the cheerfulness of the community. Under such circumstances

it is not surprising if the making of a railroad, the erection of a great hotel, and the laying of a tramway are looked upon as matters outside the real interests of the country, and are even fatuously opposed by the more old-fashioned and prejudiced.

Of the hotels at present in working order the writer is glad to be able to speak in the most favourable terms. The "Nile," in Trafalgar Square and at the corner of Broad Street and High Street, with entrance opposite the public buildings, does a flourishing and respectable business. This house is within three minutes' walk, or so, of the railway station, and fronts the Careenage. A livery stable is attached to the hotel, and carriages are provided at the shortest notice. The charges are, for board and lodging, \$1.50 (6s. 3d.) a day, and \$40, or 12l. 6s. 8d., a month. Special arrangements at lower rates are made for dramatic and other companies.

Lewis's Boarding House, Hastings, also receives guests, but gives little more "accommodation" than furnished rooms, visitors employing and paying their own servants. In Bridgetown itself there are several other hotels, as the Victoria, the Standard, Hood's,

the "Ice House," &c. At the Crane are no hotels, but furnished houses are to be had by the month. At Bathsheba there are also several furnished houses "to let," including Bowens', Jearwood's Round House, and Tenby House, at rents ranging from \$40 to \$20 a month. These houses are right on the sea cliff, and Tenby is especially well situated, having the ravine of Joe's River on one side, while on the other the sea is boiling directly under as in a caldron, and leaping upon the rocks that are standing in great confused masses along the shore. "Beechmount," recently opened as a hotel, at Bathsheba, is also well situated on a hill commanding a long vista of the coast-line of the Scotland district. The house is comfortably furnished, and is much patronized by the Barbadian gentry. The terms are seven shillings a day for board and lodging, including attendance, but exclusive of liquors and ice.

ADDENDA.

The telephone in Barbados—The Horticultural Society.

A SYSTEM of telephonic communication has been established in Barbados, and as the charge for hire of instrument and lines is very small (ten shillings a month), it is needless to say that great advantage is taken of it. Most of the better class of houses within a circuit of a couple of miles of the town are on the "Telephone List," and many far out in the country. Nowhere in the world has fuller advantage been taken of this invention than here, and the enterprise has succeeded to a remarkable degree, proving not only a great convenience to the public, but a profitable investment for the shareholders of the company who started it, who are receiving dividends of some twenty per cent. on their capital.

A word may also be said of the Barbados Horticultural Society, founded to encourage

a taste for growing rare and beautiful plants, and to aid the same by importing specimens which are not at present grown in the island, and selling them at cost price. The funds of the society are in a flourishing condition, and large sums of money are given in prizes at its annual "show," which has become one of the *fête* days of the *élite*. Efforts are now being made to establish a public garden in connection with the society, and with good prospects of success.

APPENDIX.

LIST OF PRICES FOR 1886.

Arrowroot, per lb., 12 cents
 Ale, per cask, \$32
 Aloes, per cwt., \$40
 Alewives, per lb., 3 to 4 cents

Bread-fruit, each, 3 to 4 cents
 Black-eye peas, per lb. 6 cts.

Blue " " 6 "
 Brown bread, 100 lbs., \$2.60

Bath brick, per doz., 60 cents
 Black pepper, per lb., 24 "

Beans, white, per lb., 6 "
 Barley, per lb., 8 cents

Butter, " 40 "
 Butter, per tin, 24 cents

Brandy, per gall., \$2.40
 Beef (steaks), per lb. 20 cts.

Beef (tea), " 16 "
 Bread, salt, per loaf, 2 to 6

cents
 Bran, per lb., 2 cents

Blacking, per pot, 7 cents
 Bananas, 3 to 4 for 1 cent

Crackers, per barrel, \$3
 Coffee, ground, per lb., 28 cts.

Coffee, raw, 10 to 24 cents
 Cinnamon, per lb., \$1.44
 Cabbage, per lb., 4 cents
 Cocoa, prepared, per tin, 24 cents

Corn starch, per lb., 10 to 12 cents

Candles, per lb., 20 to 30 cts
 Coal, per ton, \$9

Cucumbers, per doz., 15 cents
 Cassava, per lb., 3 cents

Cocoanuts (dry), per 100, \$3
 " (water), 6 for 24 cents

Coal, per bag, 75 cents
 Cheese, per lb., 24 to 30 cents

Corn, per bag, \$1.70
 Cigars, per 100, \$1 to \$8

Eggs, per doz., 24 cents
 Eddoes, per lb. (100), \$2

Flour, per lb., 4 to 5 cents
 Fowls, per lb., 13 to 14 cts.

Fish, salt, per lb., 5 cents
 Fish, fresh, " 4 to 6 cents

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Fish, flying, per doz., 1 to 12 cents | Oatmeal, per lb., 8 cents |
| Fish, bloaters, 2 for 1 cent | Oil, cocoanut, per gall., 90 cts. |
| Grape-fruit, each, 2 to 3 cts. | Oil, kerosene, per tin, \$1.10 |
| Gin, per gall., \$1.80 | Oranges, per 100, 72 cents |
| Ginger, ground, per lb., 36 cents | Oilmeal, per lb., 2½ cents |
| Guinea corn-flour, per pint, 2½ cents | Oats, per 100 lbs., \$3.50 |
| Guinea birds, per pair, 24 cents per lb. | Onions, per lb., 6 cents |
| Guavas, per 8, 1 cent | Potatoes, sweet, per cwt., 72 cents |
| Hams, per lb., 24 to 28 cents | „ English, per lb., 2½ cts. |
| Hay, per 100 lbs., \$1.30 | Pumpkins, per 100, \$1 |
| Herrings, per tin, 14 cents | Pines, each, 12 to 15 cents |
| Jelly, guava, per lb., 24 to 30 cents | Pine jam, per lb., 36 cents |
| Limes, per 100, 8 cents | Plantains, per 10, 10 cents |
| Lobsters, fresh, 10 to 24 cts. | Peas, Canadian, per pint, 4 cents |
| Lobsters, in tins, 18 to 20 cts. | Peas, split, per pint, 4 cents |
| Lard, per lb., 12 to 16 cents | Peas, dry, „ 5 „ |
| Lemons, per 100, 24 cents | Peas, green, „ 4 „ |
| Melons, 16 to 24 cents | Pork, per lb., 10 to 12 cents |
| Mangoes, 2 for 1 cent | Pork, salt, per lb., 10 to 12 cents |
| Milk, new, per pint, 4 cents | Porter, per cask, \$19 |
| Mutton, per lb., 24 cents | Pigeons, per pair, 24 cents |
| Mustard, per lb., 12 cents | Pollard, per lb., 2 cents |
| Matches, per doz. boxes, 8 to 24 cents | Rice, brown, per lb., 2 cents |
| Meal, corn-flour, per barrel, \$4 | Rice, white, „ 4 „ |
| Molasses, per gall., 24 cents | Rum, per gal., 96 cents |
| Ochroes, per 100, 5 cents | Raisins, per lb., 24 cents |
| | Shaddocks, each, 4 to 5 cents |
| | Snuff, per bottle, 36 cents |
| | Sago, per lb., 6 cents |
| | Sugar, muscavado, per lb., 4 cents |

| | |
|---|--|
| Sugar, crystallized, per lb., 5 to 6 cents | Tea, green, per lb., 48 to 96 cents |
| Salt, per lb., 1 cent | Tapioca, per lb., 6 cents |
| Soap, per box, \$2.60 | Tamarinds, per 100 lbs., 50 cents |
| Salmon, salt, per lb. 10 cts. | Tous-les-mois, per lb., 20 cents |
| Salmon, fresh, per tin, 18 cts. | Turtle, per lb., 20 cents |
| Soda-water, per dozen, 30 cts. | Tallow, „ 12 cents |
| Sardines, per tin, 12 cents | |
| Sugar apples, 2 cents | Washing soda, per lb., 4 cents |
| | Wood, per cord, \$8 |
| Tobacco, per lb., 65 cents | |
| Turkeys, „ 18 to 20 cents | Yams, white, per lb., 2 cents |
| Tea, black, per lb., 48 to 96 cents | |

NOTE.—Where the variations given in price are considerable, as in the case of flying-fish, the difference is caused by a temporary scarcity or abundance. After a good day for fishing the fish are sometimes thrown away or sold for what they will fetch. In bad weather for fishing, on the other hand, they will rise in price.

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

There are two Lodges working in the island: "The Albion Lodge, No. 196, E.R.," under the Registry of the Grand Lodge of England. The warrant is dated as far back as 1790. Days of meeting, 1st Wednesday in every month. Installation Night, 1st Wednesday in every December. The muster roll is a heavy one.

"The Scotia Lodge, No. 340, S.R.," under the registry of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. The warrant is dated in 1844. Days of meeting on the 3rd Monday in every month. Installation Night, on the 3rd Monday in December.

There is a Mark Master's Lodge also at work, called "The Albion Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 212," under the registry of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England, Wales, and the Colonies, &c. Days of meeting, 3rd Thursday in every month.

There are also two Royal Arch Chapters working, and both under the registry of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, namely, "The St. Michael Chapter, No. 191," attached to "The Albion Lodge, No. 196, E.R.," and "The Scotia Chapter, No. 65," attached to "The Scotia Lodge, No. 340, S.R." The former meets on the 2nd Thursday in every month, and the latter on the 1st Monday in every month.

There is a Knight Templars' Preceptory, called "The Star of the West Preceptory," which meets on the 2nd Tuesday in each quarter. The Sir Knights are few. A Priory of the Order of Malta is attached to the Preceptory, and which only meets occasionally to confer the Degree on Sir Knights.

The above Masonic Bodies hold their meetings at the Masonic Hall, Spry Street, Bridgetown, Babados, in a commodious building, detached, with a commodious Lodge Room, the building being the absolute property of the Masonic Bodies.

DOLLAR AND STERLING TABLE.

| Dollars. | Sterling. | | | Sterling. | Dollars | |
|----------|-----------|----|----|-----------|---------|----|
| | £ | s. | d. | £ | \$ | ¢. |
| 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 80 |
| 2 | 0 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 60 |
| 3 | 0 | 12 | 6 | 3 | 14 | 40 |
| 4 | 0 | 16 | 8 | 4 | 19 | 20 |
| 5 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 5 | 24 | 00 |
| 6 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 28 | 80 |
| 7 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 33 | 60 |
| 8 | 1 | 13 | 4 | 8 | 38 | 40 |
| 9 | 1 | 17 | 6 | 9 | 43 | 20 |
| 10 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 10 | 48 | 00 |
| 20 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 20 | 96 | 00 |
| 30 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 30 | 144 | 00 |
| 40 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 40 | 192 | 00 |
| 50 | 10 | 8 | 4 | 50 | 240 | 00 |
| 60 | 12 | 10 | 0 | 60 | 288 | 00 |
| 70 | 14 | 11 | 8 | 70 | 336 | 00 |
| 80 | 16 | 13 | 4 | 80 | 384 | 00 |
| 90 | 18 | 15 | 0 | 90 | 432 | 00 |
| 100 | 20 | 16 | 8 | 100 | 480 | 00 |
| 200 | 41 | 13 | 4 | 200 | 960 | 00 |
| 300 | 62 | 10 | 0 | 300 | 1440 | 00 |
| 400 | 83 | 6 | 8 | 400 | 1920 | 00 |
| 500 | 104 | 3 | 4 | 500 | 2400 | 00 |
| 600 | 125 | 0 | 0 | 600 | 2880 | 00 |
| 700 | 145 | 16 | 8 | 700 | 3360 | 00 |
| 800 | 166 | 13 | 4 | 800 | 3840 | 00 |
| 900 | 187 | 10 | 0 | 900 | 4320 | 00 |
| 1000 | 208 | 6 | 8 | 1000 | 4800 | 00 |
| 2000 | 416 | 13 | 4 | 2000 | 9600 | 00 |
| 3000 | 625 | 0 | 0 | 3000 | 14,400 | 00 |
| 4000 | 833 | 6 | 8 | 4000 | 19,200 | 00 |
| 5000 | 1041 | 13 | 4 | 5000 | 24,000 | 00 |
| 6000 | 1250 | 0 | 0 | 6000 | 28,800 | 00 |
| 7000 | 1458 | 6 | 8 | 7000 | 33,600 | 00 |
| 8000 | 1666 | 13 | 4 | 8000 | 38,400 | 00 |
| 9000 | 1875 | 0 | 0 | 9000 | 43,200 | 00 |
| 10,000 | 2083 | 6 | 8 | 10,000 | 48,000 | 00 |

CENT TABLE.

| Cents. | | Sterling. | | Cents. | | Sterling. |
|--------|---|--------------------|--|--------|---|--------------------|
| | | s. d. | | | | s. d. |
| 1 | . | 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | 37 | . | 1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 2 | . | 0 1 | | 38 | . | 1 7 |
| 3 | . | 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | 39 | . | 1 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 4 | . | 0 2 | | 40 | . | 1 8 |
| 5 | . | 0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | 41 | . | 1 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 6 | . | 0 3 | | 42 | . | 1 9 |
| 7 | . | 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | 43 | . | 1 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 8 | . | 0 4 | | 44 | . | 1 10 |
| 9 | . | 0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | 45 | . | 1 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 10 | . | 0 5 | | 46 | . | 1 11 |
| 11 | . | 0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | 47 | . | 1 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 12 | . | 0 6 | | 48 | . | 2 0 |
| 13 | . | 0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | 49 | . | 2 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 14 | . | 0 7 | | 50 | . | 2 1 |
| 15 | . | 0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | 51 | . | 2 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 16 | . | 0 8 | | 52 | . | 2 2 |
| 17 | . | 0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | 53 | . | 2 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 18 | . | 0 9 | | 54 | . | 2 3 |
| 19 | . | 0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | 55 | . | 2 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 20 | . | 0 10 | | 56 | . | 2 4 |
| 21 | . | 0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | 57 | . | 2 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 22 | . | 0 11 | | 58 | . | 2 5 |
| 23 | . | 0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | 59 | . | 2 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 24 | . | 1 0 | | 60 | . | 2 6 |
| 25 | . | 1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | 61 | . | 2 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 26 | . | 1 1 | | 62 | . | 2 7 |
| 27 | . | 1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | 63 | . | 2 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 28 | . | 1 2 | | 64 | . | 2 8 |
| 29 | . | 1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | 65 | . | 2 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 30 | . | 1 3 | | 66 | . | 2 9 |
| 31 | . | 1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | 67 | . | 2 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 32 | . | 1 4 | | 68 | . | 2 10 |
| 33 | . | 1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | 69 | . | 2 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 34 | . | 1 5 | | 70 | . | 2 11 |
| 35 | . | 1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | 71 | . | 2 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 36 | . | 1 6 | | 72 | . | 3 0 |

| Cents. | | Sterling. | | Cents. | | Sterling. | |
|--------|---|-----------|-----------------|--------|---|-----------|------------------|
| | | s. | d. | | | s. | d. |
| 73 | . | 3 | 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 87 | . | 3 | 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 74 | . | 3 | 1 | 88 | . | 3 | 8 |
| 75 | . | 3 | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 89 | . | 3 | 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 76 | . | 3 | 2 | 90 | . | 3 | 9 |
| 77 | . | 3 | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 91 | . | 3 | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 78 | . | 3 | 3 | 92 | . | 3 | 10 |
| 79 | . | 3 | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 93 | . | 3 | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 80 | . | 3 | 4 | 94 | . | 3 | 11 |
| 81 | . | 3 | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 95 | . | 3 | 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 82 | . | 3 | 5 | 96 | . | 4 | 0 |
| 83 | . | 3 | 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 97 | . | 4 | 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 84 | . | 3 | 6 | 98 | . | 4 | 1 |
| 85 | . | 3 | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 99 | . | 4 | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 86 | . | 3 | 7 | 100 | . | 4 | 2 |

MAILS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

By Royal Mail Steamer, leaving Barbados every alternate Monday.

By Scrutton's Steamers, leaving Barbados twice in each month. Letters to be specially marked, "By Scrutton's Steamer."

MAILS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.

By Royal Mail Steamer, leaving Southampton every alternate Thursday.

By Scrutton's Steamers, leaving Dartmouth twice in each month (no fixed dates). Letters to be specially marked, "By Scrutton's Steamer, *via* Dartmouth."

* By West India and Pacific Steamers, leaving Liverpool.

* By Harrison's Line of Steamers, leaving Liverpool.

* NOTE.—A steamer, either of the Liverpool and Pacific Company, or of Harrison's Line, leaves Liverpool

every Saturday afternoon, direct for Barbados. These steamers are timed to arrive at Barbados in sixteen days (every Monday), from whence they at once proceed on to Trinidad, &c.

Letters may be posted in London every Friday, and should be distinctly addressed, "By Steamer *via* Liverpool."

POST OFFICE ORDERS.

Money Orders are granted at the General Post Office, Barbados, on the United Kingdom, and on all Colonies and places (except France) with which the United Kingdom has a Money Order Exchange, namely :—

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Austria
Belgium
Denmark
Danish West Indies
Dutch East Indian Posses-
sions
Egypt
German Empire
Holland
Hungary
Iceland
Italy
Japan
Norway
Portugal
Sweden
Switzerland

BRITISH AGENCIES.

Gibraltar
Constantinople

Smyrna

Panama

BRITISH POSSESSIONS AND COLONIES.

Belize
Bermuda
British Columbia
British Guiana
Cape of Good Hope
Canada
Ceylon
Cyprus
Falkland Islands
Gambia
Gold Coast
Heligoland
Hong Kong (with Agen-
cies)
Lagos
Malta
Mauritius
Natal

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| New Brunswick | St. Helena |
| Newfoundland | Seychelle Islands |
| New South Wales | Sierra Leone |
| New Zealand | South Australia |
| North Borneo | Straits Settlements |
| Nova Scotia | Tasmania |
| Prince Edward Island | Victoria |
| Queensland | Western Australia |

Orders can be obtained at any of the above places on Barbados.

The scale of commission on the United Kingdom and the above places, payable at Barbados, is—

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|---|---|
| For any sum not exceeding £1 | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 6 |
| „ „ exceeding £1 and not exceeding £2 | | | | 1 | 0 |
| „ „ „ £5 | | | £5 | 2 | 0 |
| „ „ „ £7 | | | £7 | 3 | 0 |
| „ „ „ £10 | | | £10 | 4 | 0 |
| No single order for more than £10 given. | | | | | |

TABLE OF THE RATES OF POSTAGE, EITHER BY PACKET OR PRIVATE SHIP.

NOTE.—Letters cannot be sent unpaid to the countries comprised in the Postal Union, the names of which are printed in italics.

No letter or other article can be registered to the countries marked (*a*); to all other countries any article may be registered. The registration fee is 4*d*.

No book packet or packet of newspapers addressed to the countries marked (*) must exceed 4 lbs. in weight; and the weight of a packet of patterns for these countries is limited to 8 ounces. The weight of a book packet, or packet of patterns, addressed to New South Wales or Queensland, is limited to 3 lbs. In all other cases the weight of a packet is limited to 5 lbs. The size of a packet of patterns addressed to any of the countries marked (*) is limited to 8 inches in length, 4 inches in width, and 2 inches in depth.

In addition to all kinds of printed, engraved, or litho-

graphed matter, legal and commercial documents and music in manuscript may be sent as a book packet. Proofs of printing or of music may bear corrections with a pen, and may have manuscript annexed to them. Circulars, &c., may bear the signature of the sender, his trade or profession, place of residence, and a date. A book may have a dedication or complimentary inscription in manuscript, and printed or lithographed stock or share lists, prices current, and market reports, may have the prices added in writing.

It is forbidden to send coin, jewellery, or precious metal through the post office.

There is no Parcels Post in Barbados. No article, not *bonâ fide* a pattern or sample, can be sent at the reduced rate of postage. Patterns and samples must not possess any saleable value whatever.

BOATMEN'S FARES.

| | | |
|---|------|----|
| From the wharf to any vessel at anchor, or under weigh, within the Bay, by message or by letter ... | c. | 24 |
| From ditto to ditto, with one or two passengers and return, being detained a quarter of an hour ... | 40 | |
| Ditto, being detained half an hour ... | 48 | |
| Ditto, being detained one hour ... | 72 | |
| From the Wharf to the Engineer's Wharf, by message or letter ... | 48 | |
| From the Wharf to the Engineer's Wharf, with one or two passengers, and return immediately ... | 60 | |
| Ditto, being detained half an hour ... | 72 | |
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